

APRIL 1957

RN

A JOURNAL FOR NURSES



WHILE YOU WERE OUT

TO: Dr. Parsons

TIME: 4:50 p.m.

TELEPHONED	X	PLEASE CALL HIM	
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTED TO SEE YOU		RUSH	

MESSAGE: Mrs. Novak called while you were at the Tri-State meeting; needed another Rx for that new antipruritic you prescribed for her. I suggested she use Calmitol until you returned. She phoned again, today; prefers Calmitol.

S.G.

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J.P.

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RN

A JOURNAL FOR NURSES

APRIL

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PUBLISHER

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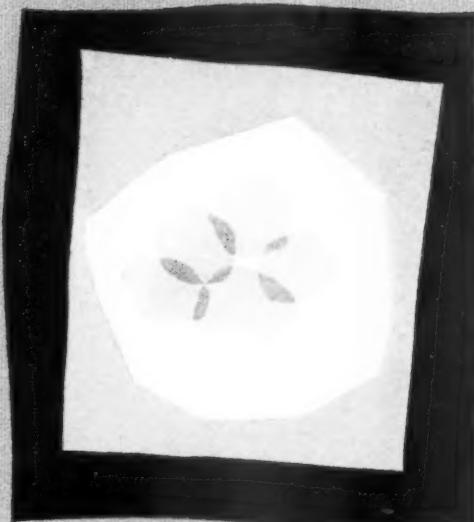
april, 1957

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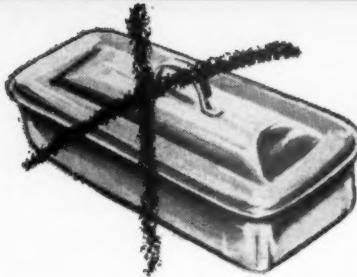


THE COVER



Currently observing its seventy-fifth anniversary is the Paterson General Hospital School of Nursing. Founded in 1882 by the same group of civic-minded and persevering women who had started the hospital eleven years before, the New Jersey school has graduated 1,046 nurses. They've served in every phase of nursing service and nursing education. An alumnae association was organized in 1895 and was admitted to membership in Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada three years later. It is one of the oldest such organizations in the country. The school is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and has received full accreditation from the National League for Nursing. It is associated with Fairleigh Dickinson University, where first year students in the three-year course receive instruction in the biological and social sciences, and with the State Hospital at Greystone Park. Framed by a wreath, symbol of purification and protection, the pin features the school's entwined initials.

»»



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2. Components must be combined aseptically.
3. The finished product must meet U.S.P. sterility tests⁽²⁾.
4. Each petrolatum gauze unit must be packaged individually to maintain sterility.

(1) U.S.P. XV, pp 304-305. (2) U.S.P. XV, pp 841-846.

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at least 30 minutes before any meal,
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Amplly Diluted with Water...

Mix required dose with one half glass
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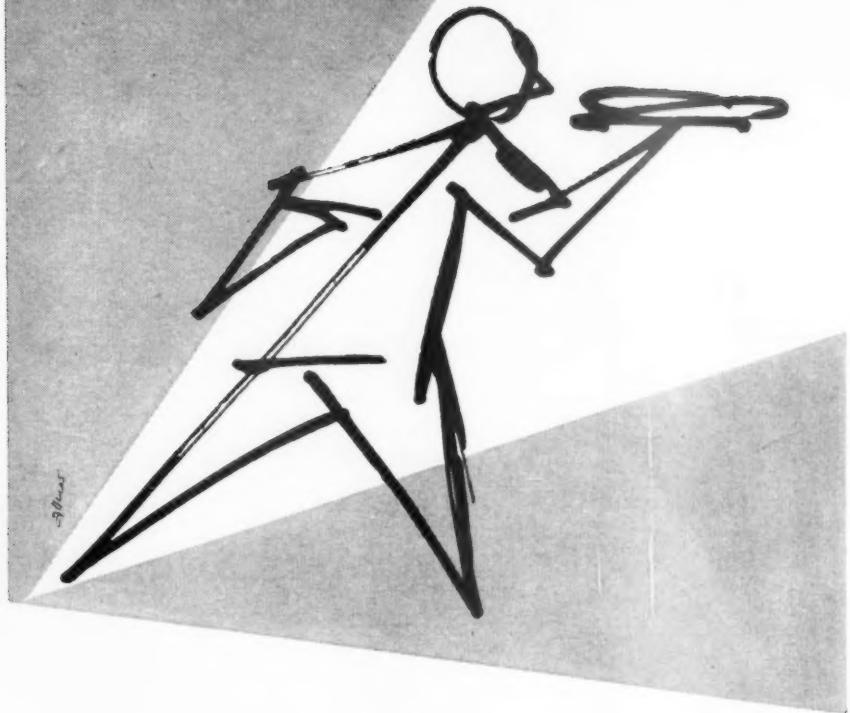
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Reference: 1. Hardy, James D.: *The Nature of Pain; J. of Chronic Diseases*, Vol. 4, July 1956.

LETTERS

A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Dear Editor:

A nurse's lack of insight into her own problems, limitations, and feelings of inferiority is not conducive to composure in her work day. This deficiency may cause her to have an oversolicitous attitude toward her patients and strong resentments toward her supervisor and co-workers.

Each nurse should do some creative thinking which is not overshadowed by personal complacency and humiliations. Creative thinking can give us a change of attitude. If all of us developed some new positive attitudes, wouldn't we resolve many of the problems in nursing?

VIRGINIA A. STEPONATE, R.N.
CHICAGO, ILL.

WORKING MOTHERS

Dear Editor:

This is a reply to some of the letters from working nurse-mothers. I believe that once a nurse has a family, as I have, her home should come first. Rearing the adults of tomorrow is more important than the nursing shortage. Our training

taught us not only to be good nurses but also good citizens. I believe it is more economical to remain at home and reduce juvenile delinquency and, ultimately, tax rates.

ISABEL RICH NELSON, R.N.
VIENNA, VA.

* * *

Dear Editor:

There are many nurses with families who could give some time to help relieve the nursing shortage. As a supervisor from 3 to 11 P.M., I see the need of part-time nurses on this shift. As a wife and mother, I can see the problems of the working nurse-mother. With understanding between the supervisor and the part-time nurses, a satisfactory schedule can be worked out.

NINA FAULKNER, R.N.
MARION, OHIO

* * *

Dear Editor:

I want to propose another solution to the "problem so many nurse-mothers face" as stated in Louise Weimer's letter (October 1956).

I, too, chose nursing as a profession and I, also, have three children. However, when I willingly accepted the responsibilities of

**modern
woman's way
to internal
cleanliness**



*Far more effective than any
homemade solution, yet
safe for delicate tissues—
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Personal Antiseptic



motherhood, I felt that my primary obligation was to my family. Psychologists maintain that the pre-school years are very important, as far as child training is concerned. I have no right (except in the case of dire economic necessity) to delegate my responsibility to any full-time baby sitter.

Laura Caldwell, R.N.
PITTSBURGH, PA.

LEARN FROM THE YOUNG

Dear Editor:

When I was actively engaged in nursing, I was "in the dark" about ANA activities. When a nurse joined a state association, she automatically became a member of the ANA. After that, however, the association became nebulous; it was an organization she was a member of and not a member in. The officers of the ANA have been so busy charting the course that they have no time for those rowing the boat.

The young nurses of today have much to offer the association. Perhaps the officers and older members of the ANA should ask these young nurses for help.

Catherine C. Hatch, R.N.
SAN MATEO, CALIF.

ETHICS?

Dear Editor:

A Code for Professional Nurses states the following: "The nurse sustains confidence in the physician and other members of the health team; incompetency or un-



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A tropical fruit . . . richest Natural-Food source of Vitamin C (average potency 1700 mg per 100cc), 50 to 100 times greater than oranges.*

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*Quoted from "Acerola Juice—Richest Known Source of Vitamin C" N. W. Klein, M.D., *Journal of Pediatrics*, 48:160 (Feb.) 1956

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Readily tolerated, even by children with allergic histories, non-citrus BiB Apple-Acerola Juice may be introduced early into the infant dietary.

Vitamin C in the blood plasma increases to "considerably above average" pediatric levels, suggesting greater utilization.*

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Psychologically, the feeding ease is welcomed by mother and child.

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ethical conduct of associates in the health professions should be exposed, but only to the proper authority."

Did you ever try to expose unethical conduct to the proper authority? Did you have success if you attempted this? Was your place on the health team made so uncomfortable that you preferred to leave?

Just how ethical are we as professional nurses when we allow sick people to be cared for by aides? How are our ethics functioning when we allow an L.P.N. to give medications? Yes, she pours medicines with accuracy but what does she know about toxicology and side reactions? What observation and report can she give on the effect of

drugs? Did we study *materia medica* and drugs and solutions to be superceded by subprofessional people?

ETHEL D. TUNLEY, R.N.
RICHMOND HILL, N.Y.

WORKING STUDENTS?

Dear Editor:

I read Mrs. Salter's letter in the December issue concerning the two students supposedly working their way through a school of nursing.

Did Mrs. Salter check the girls' story with the school involved?

Recently, we received several calls from individuals who were visited in their homes by two girls who said they were students of our school, having to sell magazines in

no seams to twist...

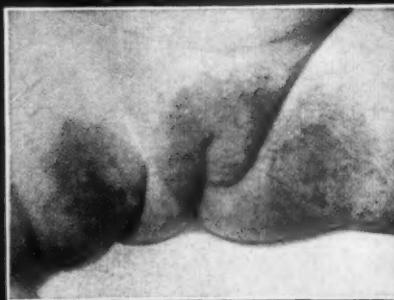
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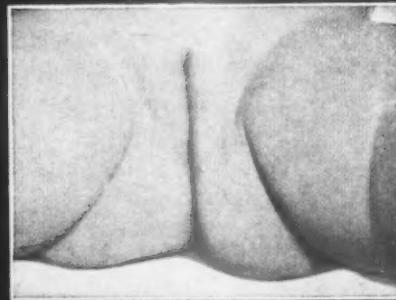
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ECONOMICAL 4 OZ. SIZE
HANDY FOR EMERGENCIES
AND ROUTINE SKIN CARE

**WHITE LABORATORIES, INC.
KENILWORTH, N. J.**

order to stay in training. The girls were neither students nor prospective students in our school.

In addition, we were called about another girl supposedly earning "points" toward a scholarship by selling magazine subscriptions. This was not true. We reported the incident to the First District Office of the Illinois State Nurses Association and the Chicago Better Business Bureau, in the hope that something could be done about this matter.

SISTER M. RONALDA, O.S.F.
EVANSTON, ILL.

PLEASED

Dear Editor:

I wish to tell you how pleased I am with your magazine. I am a new subscriber, and I find the articles concise and interesting.

PATRICIA HOWARD, R.N.
UTICA, N.Y.

PERSPECTIVE

Dear Editor:

After hearing and reading so many negative statements about young nurses it is time for an old graduate to come to their defense with a little reasoning.

Are we older graduates so old that we no longer remember our probie days? Then we heard the caustic remarks of the seniors and graduates concerning the stupidity of probationers. When we became seniors, we wondered how stupid can people be, meaning the pro-

Why CHOOZ gives mothers-to-be such long relief from **HEARTBURN**



When pregnancy brings hyperacidity and heartburn, thousands of women find their greatest comfort in CHOOZ, the chewing-gum antacid. Many write to tell us CHOOZ gives complete relief, even when antacid mints fail.

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Please send me, free, a generous trial supply of chewing-gum antacid, CHOOZ.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... Zone.....

State.....

bies, of course. Let us encourage the young graduates. Give them time and they will prove that they are invaluable members of the nursing profession.

IRENE LEBO, R.N.
ELIZABETHVILLE, PA.

CARDIAC SYMPOSIUM

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your January issue. The Prologue introducing the articles was splendid. I am grateful for this valuable information.

ERIKA OKRASSA, R.N.
DETROIT, MICH.

* * *

Dear Editor:

Your January issue was excellent. The explanations of various

cardiac conditions was very informative; the description of nursing care and the clear drawings completed the comprehensive picture. This outstanding issue shows that R.N. is an unusual source of nursing information that is both timely and applicable.

HELEN G. WALFORD
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

* * *

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your January issue. Margaret Whiting's article was one of the best I've read.

HELEN M. DONOVAN, R.N.
VANCOUVER, WASH.

* * *

Dear Editor:

I want you to know how pleased we all are with the issue. [MORE]

for the overwrought menopausal patient

THEELIN R-P*

rapid initial relief
prolonged estrogenic effect
unvarying potency

THEELIN R-P is supplied in 10-cc. Steri-Vials.* Each cc. contains 2 mg. of THEELIN and 1 mg. of Potassium Theelin Sulfate, in physiologic sodium chloride solution.

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(9 out of 10 cases cleared up or definitely improved)

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And in day-by-day use thousands of nurses, too, have experienced and observed the amazing effectiveness of this new medication.

CLEARASIL combines sulphur and resorcinol in a revolutionary greaseless and quick-drying base that works to dry up pimples. Antiseptic, stops growth of bac-

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*—without interfering with
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Controls diarrhea, without subsequent constipation. Unlike paregoric and other opiate preparations which are often constipating, Pepto-Bismol's demulcent coating action helps control simple diarrhea and allows bowel function to return to normal, usually within 24 hours.

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Methyl Salicylate Synthetic
in a demulcent base.
Note: The beneficial
medication in Pepto-Bismol
may cause a temporary
darkening of the stool.



You have done a splendid reportorial job on the Cardiac Institute.
CAPT. MARGARET WENDLAND, ANC
FITZSIMONS ARMY HOSPITAL
DENVER, COLO.

* * *

Dear Editor:

Kindly forward us six additional issues of the January R.N. The Cardiac Symposium is especially fine for us in view of the many problems we face with our cardiac patients.

CHARLOTTE HASSELBUSCH, R.N.
WASH., D.C.

SALK VACCINE

Dear Editor:

I take this opportunity to thank the nurses of the United States for their support of the program of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and for the care given to the patients who contracted poliomyelitis during 1956.

While the Salk vaccine has been proven effective in combating the poliomyelitis virus, it is not and cannot be totally effective until all susceptible persons have completed the full course of three inoculations. There are two important steps professional nurses must take to assure the successful fight against poliomyelitis. Each nurse should set a good example and receive the vaccine immediately. Nurses should also utilize their unique position to educate the public and encourage all citizens, especially persons under forty years of age, to obtain three shots of Salk vaccine. If each of the more than

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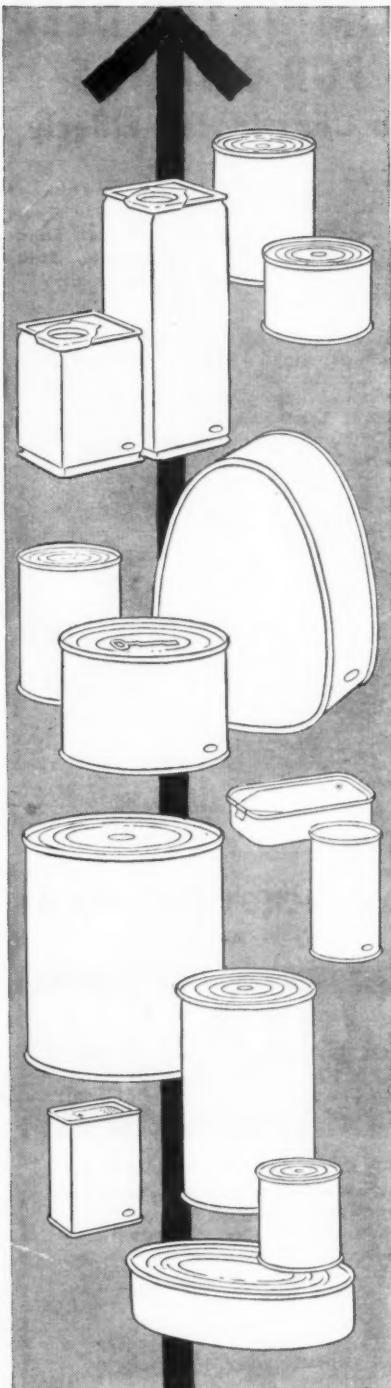
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R.N.—a journal for nurses

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SPECIALING

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(Mrs.) NANCY M. THETFORD, R.N.
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april, 1957



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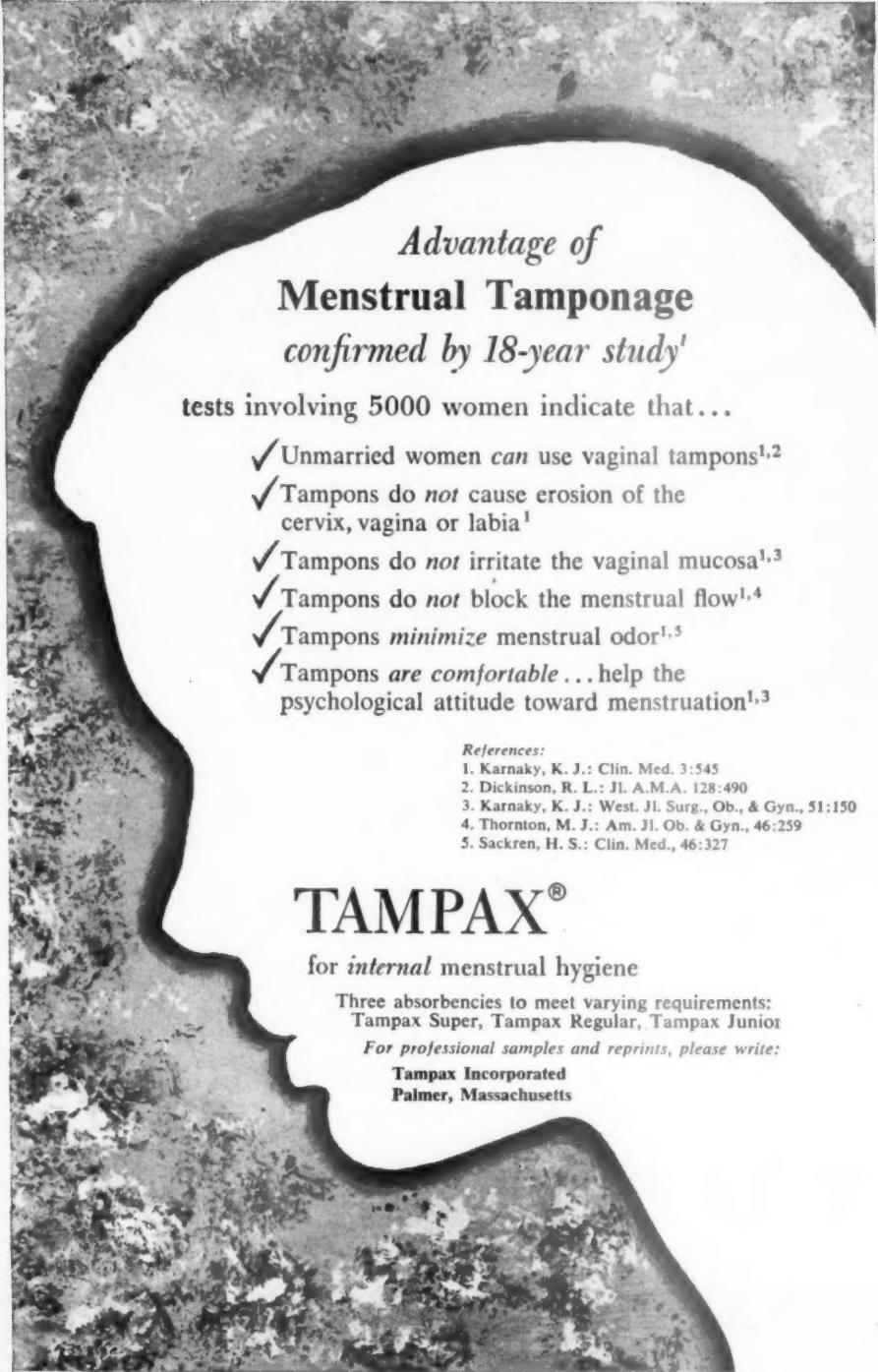
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References:

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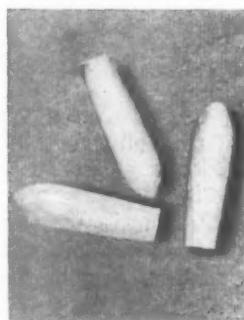


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R.N.—A JOURNAL FOR NURSES
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april, 1957

33

Birth Announcement

On February 19, 1957 at the fourth national congress of the Association of Operating Room Nurses meeting in Los Angeles, a delegate body representing some 50 individual local operating room nurse groups officiated at the long delayed birth of a new national nurses association.

For those staunch advocates of two, or eventually one professional association, this announcement may well be received with a certain lack of enthusiasm. But whether the news elicits congratulations, criticisms, or even questions of the legitimacy of this new arrival on the organizational scene, the actuality of the "birthin'," to put it succinctly, marks another FAILURE on the part of organized nursing to recognize and meet the needs of a developing profession.

It has been no secret to the ANA and NLN that operating room nurses have not been satisfied with their places within the existing structure of either organization.

The seed for this organization was inadvertently planted in the classes of its founder, Edith Dee Hall, while she specialized in, and taught, operating room nursing at the Polyclinic Medical School back in the forties. Her idea then was to form a small club for operating room nurses—actually a forum where they could pool their knowledge of surgical techniques, discuss their particular OR problems, and share in the solutions.

In 1949, such a club was formed under the leadership of Miss Hall and was called the Association of Operating Room Nurses of New York City. Once the word was heard, other groups emulated the New York unit and there were reports of independent OR units forming along parallel lines. And despite the lack of a national counterpart, OR

EDITORIAL

sections were formed within state nurses associations . . . some notwithstanding the disapproving stares from ANA headquarters.

Once the movement gained recognition, it grew on its own momentum until units were created throughout U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. Operating room nurses are "different" regardless of those who would classify them simply as general duty or supervising nurses. By the nature of their specialty—which is a specialty—OR nurses are more involved in perfecting surgical techniques than in surgical nursing. Patients may still be their first interest, but this interest is demonstrated through maintaining aseptic conditions for patients' safety, ably assisting the surgeons in whose hands patients have placed their lives, and attaining, as far as is possible, an environment of minimum tension in the operating suite with smooth operating teamwork. The OR nurse needs specialized programs that will help her develop skills along these lines and will prepare her professionally to keep pace with the giant steps being taken by the surgeons in today's surgeries.

Intuitively, the OR nurses have known that to do this they must think as a specialty group, organize as a specialty group, and grow professionally as a specialty group, despite caustic criticism.

As an interested observer, we at R.N. have watched these nurses knocking on organizational doors, requesting admittance on their terms—and have seen their requests refused.

From 1949, representatives of the AORN have discontinued on page 78

Concluding a two-part series on a developing trend:

Progress Report on Recovery Rooms

by Alice R. Clarke

Nurses attending the American College of Surgeons' regional meeting in New Orleans this February might have heard one of the strongest supporters of the principle of recovery rooms call this service the very keystone of the hospital. Dr. Alton Ochsner, of New Orleans' Ochsner Foundation, minced no words, however, when he went on to say that he meant a *recovery room* in its true sense. "There is no place for postanesthesia rooms, today, except as a compromise," said the New Orleans surgeon. "The patient should be recovered from the surgery, not just the anesthesia, before he is returned to his own room."

Generally speaking, it is only the larger hospitals that can maintain

the type of recovery room service advocated by Dr. Ochsner. In smaller institutions, where most of scheduled surgery is performed in the forenoon, the recovery (or postanesthesia) unit is commonly closed by 5 or 6 P.M.—or, at the latest, by midnight. Patients requiring emergency surgery during the evening and night hours are returned directly to their rooms.

There is no question but that recovery room units are expensive, yet, at the same time, they are economical. The concentration of post-operative patients, equipment, and staff adds to the total economy of the hospital operation.

With postanesthesia care centralized, it is no longer necessary to have so many duplicates of cost-



Developed by the military during World War II, the recovery unit is rapidly becoming a permanent hospital installation.

ly devices available in many different areas—a duplication which is unavoidable when such care is decentralized.

Delays involved in obtaining special life-saving equipment from central supply are eliminated. With its point of use transferred to the recovery room, such equipment can be kept there instead of in central supply.

It has been reported that 50 per cent of deaths occur in the immediate postoperative period. Those who have used the recovery unit have found that complications have decreased and morbidity has been lessened through prompt treatment.

The ideal location of the recovery room, as close to the anesthesia and OR departments as is architec-

turally possible, assists the anesthetists in giving the same highly skilled observation as during surgery, and, in the event of an emergency, the surgeon's suite is in the immediate area.

Surgeons like the recovery room. Their patients are centralized, not scattered throughout the hospital. With the knowledge that their patients are receiving special care, they have peace of mind. In fact, some surgeons now ask that their patients go to the recovery room for a few hours regardless of whether the patient is awake or not. Even those who are awake can suffer falls in blood pressure simply from the shifting of position from the OR table to the stretcher.

The first two hours immediately

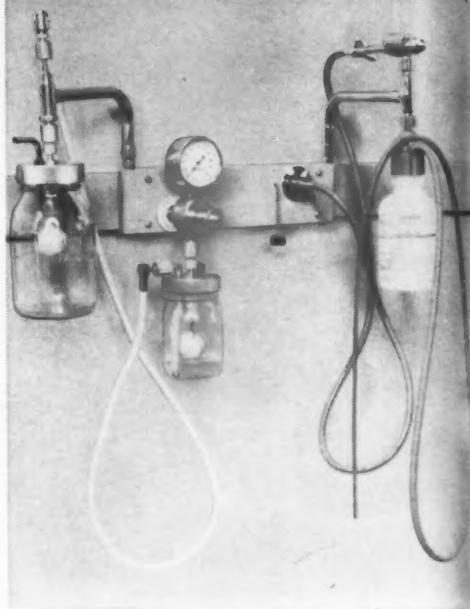
postoperative are the most important time of the patient's life. And the two most important things the recovery room staff is alerted for are prevention of shock and control of respiratory obstruction.

As a training facility for student nurses, the recovery unit invariably affords increased opportunities for clinical experience. With private, semiprivate, and ward cases alike being brought in for immediate postoperative care, the student encounters a much wider range of surgical cases, as well as a concentrated example of postanesthesia-surgical nursing.

Hospital schools offering graduate courses for nurse anesthetists find the recovery unit of real value as an added clinical facility.

The "visiting problem" has been greatly simplified—largely because visitors can either be kept out of the recovery unit altogether or permitted to see the patient only for a few moments during the less busy hours of the day. As a result, many a high-strung relative has been spared a distressing view; and many a harried nurse has been spared the experience of seeing her patients disturbed by distraught family emotionalism. (Some surgeons explain the purpose of the recovery room to the patient's family prior to surgery.)

Male and female patients as well as private, semiprivate, and ward cases—can generally be accommo-

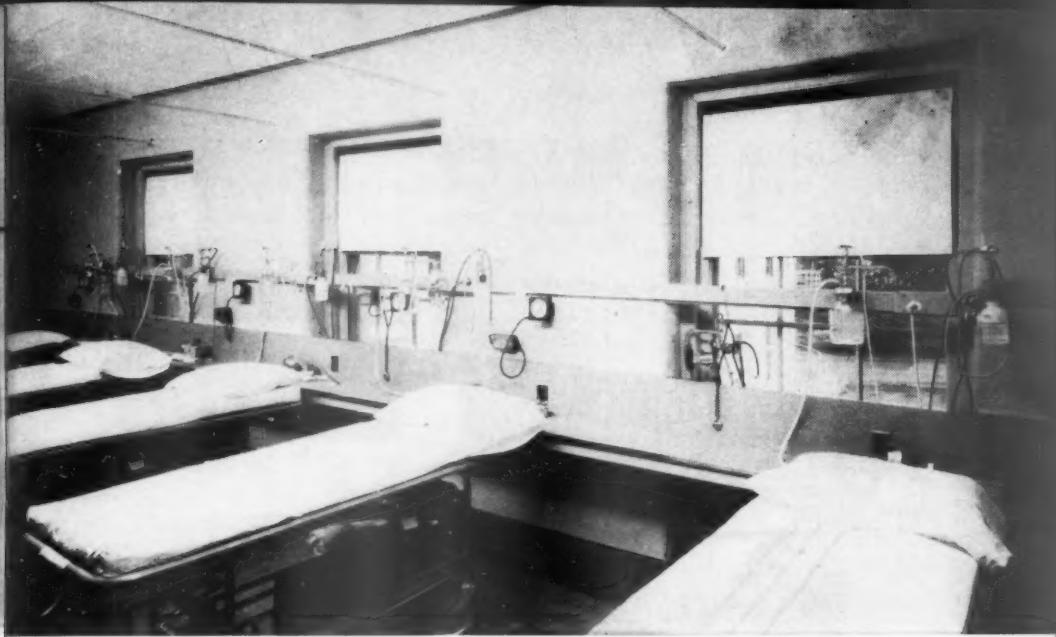


Recovery room close-up: Suction wall unit (left), oxygen (right), both readily available near beds.

dated in the same recovery unit. (As one authority puts it, "During the immediate postoperative hours, the majority don't care who their roommates are; and by the time they start noticing, it's time to move them back to their rooms.")

Research projects and special studies in postoperative care can be carried out more effectively in a recovery unit than in other areas.

What amounts to a whole new field of nursing has been opened up for those who wish to specialize—a field which should particularly appeal to younger R.N.'s. This belief is based largely on the fact that intensive recovery room experience enables an individual to acquire a greater degree of nursing skill than



Ready for postoperative care, this recovery room shows a custom-made, low-cost oxygen and suction system that can be coupled into existing facilities, and extended or transferred at any time.

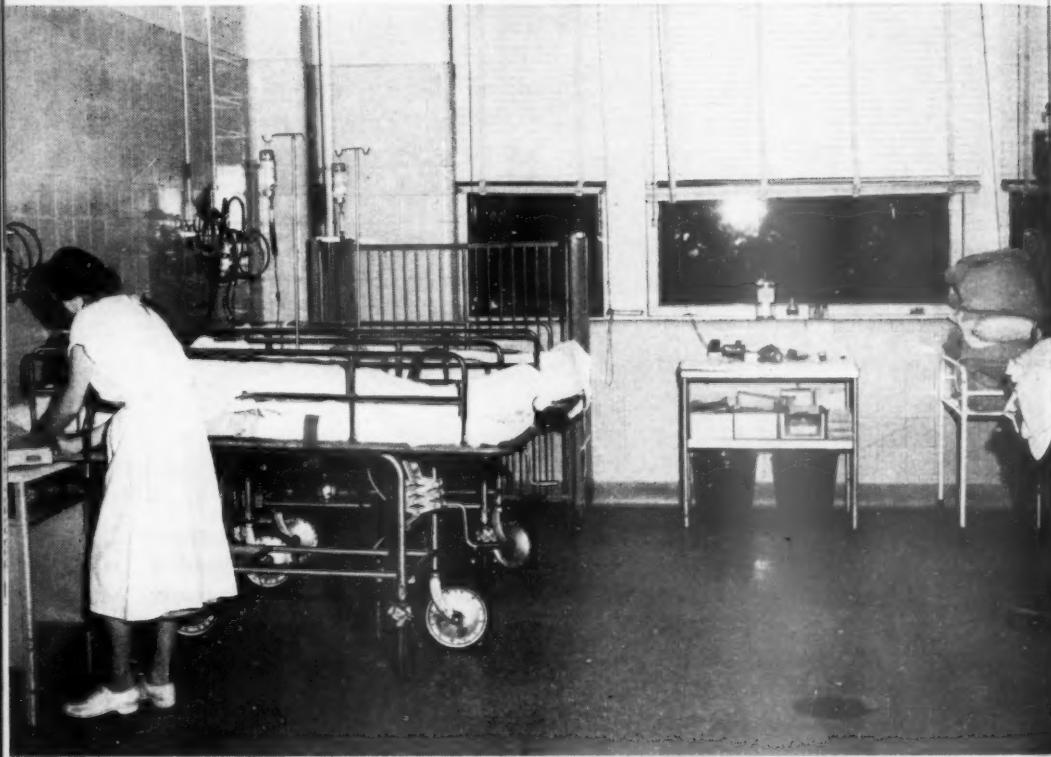
one ordinarily acquires elsewhere.

The physical layout of a well planned, open-area recovery unit—with all patients clearly visible from a centrally located nurses' station—saves steps, simplifies the supervisory aspects of the head nurse's job, and otherwise adds up to better patient care.

As might be expected, no two such units are apt to be exactly alike, either in layout, equipment, or scope of service. Indeed, even the term "recovery room" already has several variations; many hospitals seem to prefer the more limited "postanesthesia room," which promptly becomes "the P.A.R." in staff lingo; and at least one leading cancer center has

adopted "recovery pavilion" as an identifying name for its airconditioned and soundproofed twenty-four-bed unit. In other hospitals, where the recovery room principle has been followed in setting up special-care areas for all critically ill patients, medical as well as surgical, the term "intensive therapy unit" has replaced the more commonly known designation.

As with all new developments, there are attending problems and, peculiarly enough, one already recognized is that a recovery unit may run *too* smoothly. Thelma Laird, director of nursing at New York's Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases, brought this out at the American College of Sur-



No two recovery rooms are identical in layout, equipment, or scope of service; but all have a common aim: improved postoperative care.

geons' meeting when she warned that the surgeons may be too ready to delegate procedures to an efficient recovery nurse. Miss Laird admonished that in all fields the nurse is at her best when she supports and amplifies the physician's role, but when she attempts to substitute for him, she is in danger.

Another problem area, touched on at both the American College of Surgeons' and the Association of

Operating Room Nurses' meeting is that of who takes the responsibility for releasing the patient from the recovery unit. One anesthesiologist made the statement that in his hospital, the recovery room nurse determined the time of release. Not many anesthesiologists or surgeons would agree upon that arrangement. They are finding it difficult enough to agree between themselves as to who takes the responsibility.

Historically, the anesthesiologists pushed the idea of the recovery room, so naturally they believe the anesthesia department should determine the patient's time of release. Some surgeons believe just as strongly that it is their prerogative to make this decision. In many hospitals there is a compromise: both sign the patient's release.

It goes without saying, of course, that various local problems have been encountered in the widespread acceptance of the recovery room idea. In fact, one particular prob-

lem that might have been anticipated—namely, a reluctance on the part of private duty nurses to take kindly to the idea—has been conspicuous by its absence. As far as can be learned, there has been very little adverse criticism, if any from this group of R.N.'s.

The reasons are not difficult to discover: In the first place, a great many hospitals allow the private duty nurse in the recovery unit, permitting her to assist in the immediate postoperative care of her patient, but with the understanding that she is working under the supervision of the recovery room nurse. Secondly, the average patient's stay in the recovery room is of such short duration that the private duty nurse isn't likely to suffer any significant loss of income on a given case.

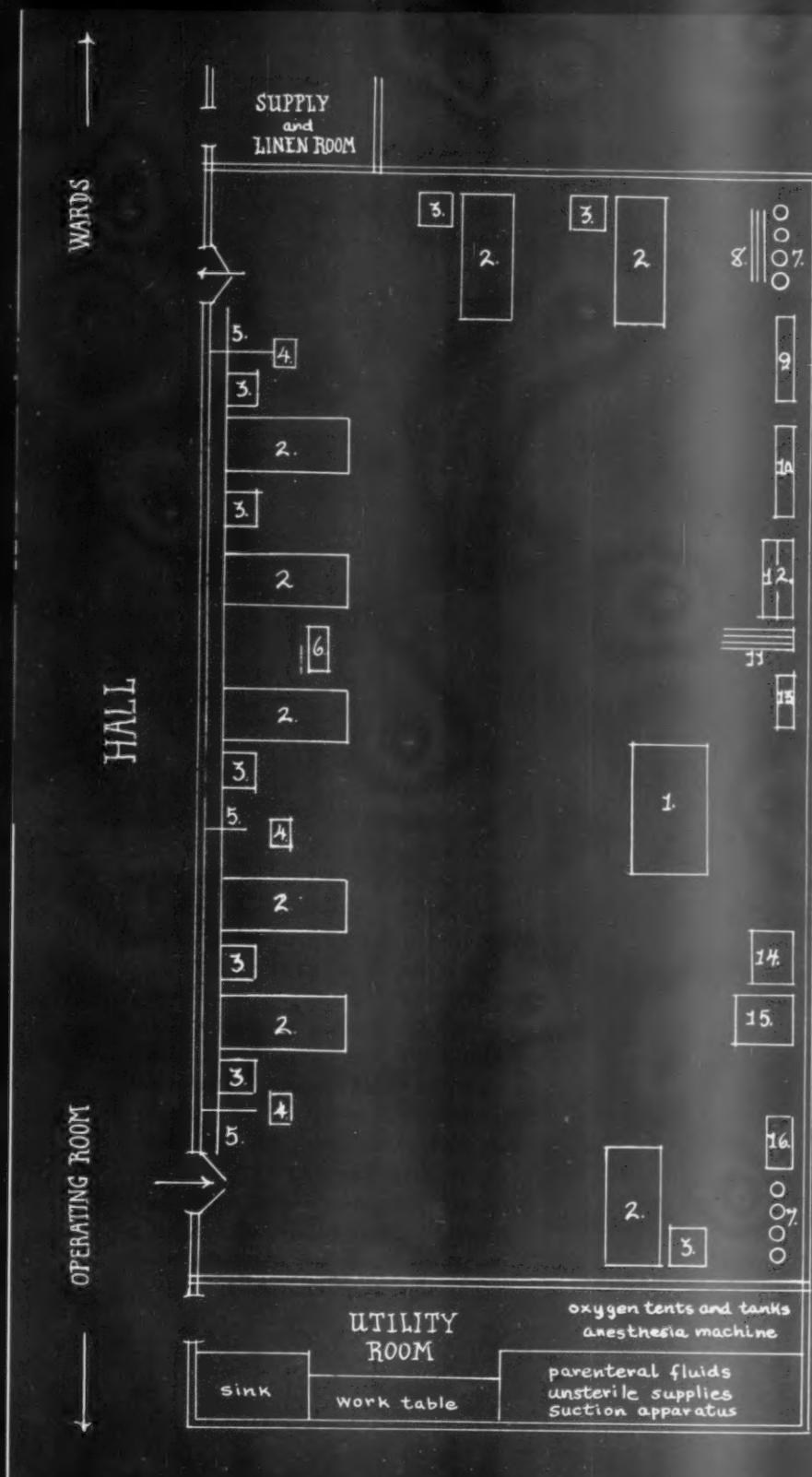
This is not to say that personal grievances haven't been expressed, here and there, in private, but there is no evidence to indicate that the recovery room principle has in any way seriously affected private duty as a whole.

Patients—oddly enough—have voiced the only objection which seems to be of major significance: in many instances they have complained, not about the recovery room itself nor the care they receive there, but about the policy some hospitals follow in making a separate charge for this service.

Usually this charge is on an



When seconds count, equipment is centralized on open shelves.



1. Nurse's desk
2. Beds
3. Bedside stands
4. Aspiration machines
5. Sinks
6. Intravenous tray on stand
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8. Bed screens
9. Dressing cart
10. Emergency tray table:
 syringes and needles,
 tracheotomy, thoracentesis,
 venesection, sutures
 spinal manometer
 catheterization
11. Open shelves:
 parenteral fluids,
 thermometer tray,
 oral hygiene tray,
 blood chemistry tray
 catheter tray
12. Work table:
 hypo tray
 emergency drugs
 stock drugs, saline
 for continuous irrigation
13. Sterilizer
14. Refrigerator:
 antibiotics
 whole blood
15. Drug cabinet:
 laryngoscope
 airways,
 endotracheal tubes
 and drugs most
 frequently used
 BP apparatus
16. Linen carrier

◀ A typical floor plan

hourly basis, with the rate ranging approximately from \$1.25 to \$2 (average charge \$5 for 2-3 hour period); and while relatively few patients object to a separate charge as such, many who stay in a full day or more in the recovery unit are indignant when they find they have also been billed "board and room" for the same period.

("I wasn't in my room on those days," says the typical objector, "I was in the recovery room.") Most patients find it difficult to understand billing of this kind; and even some nurses aren't fully aware that the usual "board and room" charge actually includes far more than meals and the use of private or semiprivate facilities. The misunderstanding is further complicated by the fact that recovery room charges are seldom, if ever, covered by Blue Cross and other hospital insurance plans.

On the question of billing patients for recovery room service, at the ACS meeting Dr. Ochsner adamantly stated, "There should be no charge. It is psychologically wrong to burden a patient and family for something that you feel is a necessity." He also maintains that unless there is an adequate size recovery unit to accommodate patients for the full recovery phase, recovery service is not being given.

In establishing their hourly rates

for recovery room service, hospitals have evidently been guided by the prevailing local fees for private duty nursing. Thus, in one area where the fee is \$16 for an eight-hour day, certain hospitals charge their semiprivate patients \$1.50 an hour and their private patients \$1.90 or \$2 an hour for time spent in the recovery unit. "If we charged more than \$2 an hour," an administrator explains, "patients would begin to wonder if it wouldn't be cheaper to hire a special duty nurse."

Volume and kinds of surgery performed generally determine how many recovery beds a hospital needs. Thus, in a 1,000-bed VA hospital, where domiciliary care is a predominant consideration, only eight or ten recovery beds may be needed; on the other hand, a 250-bed cancer hospital may require twenty or more such beds. Among smaller general hospitals (*i.e.*, those with a total capacity of less than 100 beds), the relatively few which have thus far installed recovery rooms have usually found three or four beds adequate for their post-operative case load. In larger general hospitals, where the principle has had its widest acceptance, one finds considerable variation in the ratio of recovery beds to total beds; in the New York metropolitan area, for example, a tabulation of seven such hospitals shows the following:

	Total beds	Recovery beds
New York Hospital	1,207	16
St. Vincent's	830	6
Montefiore	650	13
Roosevelt	450	8
Doctor's	273	10
Long Island Jewish	250	8
St. Barnabas (N.J.)	234	18

Recovery room equipment, likewise varying considerably from hospital to hospital, includes many a new or improved device that wasn't available ten or twelve years ago. In the newer hospitals, as well as in those whose operating facilities have been enlarged in recent years, the recovery room has usually been provided with such structural assets as air conditioning, soundproofing, and recessed wall outlets for piped-in oxygen and suction. (Even so, tank oxygen and portable suction units are still considered necessary reserve items for emergency purposes.)

A detailed check list of what the well-equipped recovery room needs in the way of apparatus and supplies is set forth in "The Recovery Room: Immediate Postoperative Management," an informative volume coauthored by Drs. Max S. Sadove and James H. Cross (W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia). A similarly authoritative list, originally published in *Hospitals* (November 1952), is available from the U.S. Public Health Service.

Anyone who believes that nurses

aren't particularly interested in equipment would do well to visit—as R.N.'s editors did recently—a representative group of recovery rooms. In hospital after hospital, nurses eagerly talked about and demonstrated one or more special items used in postanesthesia care: a thoracic Seal-O-Meter; a Gomco or a Sorenson portable suction unit; a Phillips-Drucker wall suction installation; an O.E.M. Corporation's Cof-Flator; a Stephenson or a Kreiselman resuscitator; a Birtcher defibrillator; an Isolette or an Armstrong incubator; a Hill-Rom therapy bed or a Hausted recovery stretcher; a Pneophore respirator; and so on. Moreover, many of these nurses manifested a similar interest in various new pharmaceuticals—stimulants, sedatives, antibiotics, narcotics, I.V. vitamins, etc.—now commonly used in recovery units.

Leaders in the hospital field no longer question either the soundness or the permanancy of the recovery room idea; not only is it "here to stay," as one administrator puts it, but its further national acceptance in the years just ahead is taken for granted by most authorities. Thus, thousands of R.N.'s who have yet to experience their first personal contact with this *modus operandi*, may look forward to doing so in the future; and unless all signs fail, the majority will find it a rewarding development. «»

SURGICAL MEETINGS

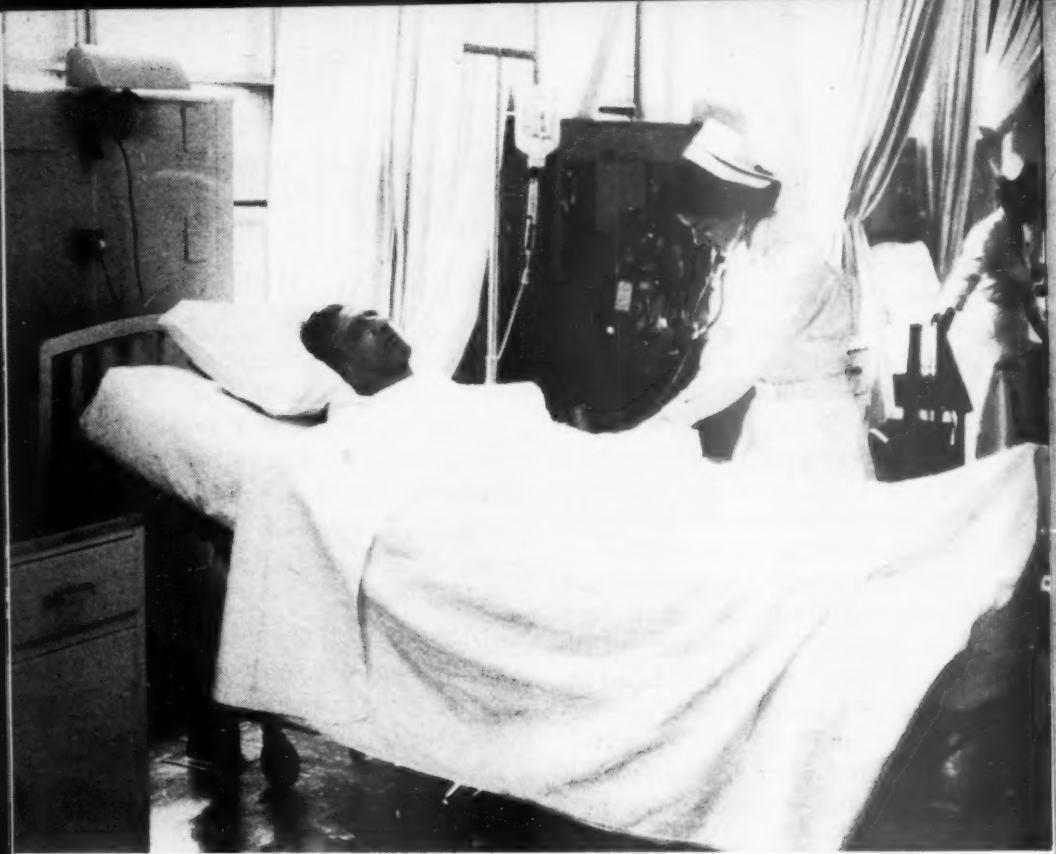
Operating rooms and surgical wards could well have been on the understaffed side during the month of February with the number of nurses attending special meetings.

Almost 1,200 of those attending the four-day sectional meeting of the American College of Surgeons in New Orleans, Feb. 4-7, were nurses, as were some 1,700 of the 2,206 registrants at the Association of Operating Room Nurses' fourth national congress at Los Angeles, Feb. 18-21.

Informative surgical programs were offered at both meetings in the form of panels, symposia, and problem clinics, but each meeting had its own particular highlights in addition to the regular agenda.

Top billing in interest goes to the many well-organized hospi-

continued from page 84



As far as the basic essentials of postanesthesia care are concerned, recovery room duties are not likely to seem new or strange to the nurse long experienced in giving this care elsewhere in the hospital. Such a nurse, however, is almost certain to find herself working under vastly different conditions on joining a recovery room staff. A wholly new environment, more adequate equipment, greater emphasis on teamwork, the immediate availability of OR personnel—all these, together

with the newness of the recovery room concept itself, tend to give even familiar duties an altered aspect for a while. As with any new assignment, some adjustment and reorientation is generally indicated.

Usual practice places the recovery unit under the jurisdiction of the chief anesthesiologist—who, in turn, is responsible to the chief surgeon. Through this setup, the nursing staff is assured that M.D.-members of the operating team (anesthesiologist and resident, us-

It takes the type of nurse who likes to work with immediate postoperative patients to staff the recovery room.

Orientation to a Postanesthesia Unit

by Nancy C. Fell

ually) will always be on call in the recovery room. Intercom connection with the adjacent OR is commonly provided.

Transfer of the postoperative patient from surgery to recovery unit is invariably the responsibility of the anesthesiologist, with some other member of the surgical team also in attendance. Both doctors report to the charge nurse on the patient's condition, complications that might develop, special symptoms to watch for, etc. They also

provide her with immediate postoperative orders in writing.

Nursing responsibilities begin at this point; hence, it is highly important that the charge nurse fully understand all verbal instructions, written orders, and hazards involved. In most hospitals, one or both doctors are required to remain in the unit while a staff nurse checks (1) the patient's blood pressure, pulse, and respirations, and (2) his tubing, drains, packing, airway, catheters, I.V.'s, blood in-



fusion, and other such supportive aids as may have been instituted in the OR.

Normally, the unconscious patient is positioned on his right side, with a pillow at his back and two under his head, with chin extended to minimize aspiratory dangers. His knees are flexed to reduce strain on abdominal sutures if any such have been used.

Maintenance of a clear air passage to the lungs is all-important. Any obstruction is first indicated by a change in the patient's breathing pattern—which should be rhythmic, effortless, and marked by slow, deep, quiet respirations. Irregular breathing, choking, or noisy respirations are presently followed by cyanosis unless they are relieved immediately. Even in the absence of symptoms, frequent aspiration of the nasopharynx and oropharynx may be indicated.

Any mechanical airway, oral or nasal, inserted during surgery must be left intact until the patient has regained his gag reflex. If, in reacting, he tries to dislodge it, removal is indicated. An endotracheal, endobronchial, or pharyngeal tube must, of course, be removed by the anesthesiologist on call; the nurse, however, may remove the simple hard rubber airway commonly used in surgery.

Blood pressure, pulse, and respiration rates are checked as frequently as ordered. Usually this

means every fifteen minutes until the patient reacts, then every half-hour until all vital signs are stabilized, and every hour thereafter. If the patient is in shock, checking may be required at ten-minute intervals or oftener. Patients kept overnight in the recovery unit are generally checked every two hours.

A sudden increase in pulse rate is often the first sign of concealed bleeding. A similar increase accompanied by a diminishing force in the pulse beat may signify the onset of shock or hemorrhage. As a rule, any pulse rate above 110 or below 60 should be reported immediately—as likewise a systolic pressure should be if it falls below the 90-mark.

Hemorrhage, shock, and lack of oxygen are further indicated by the condition of the skin, a drop in temperature, and breathing marked by rapidity and depth (as though the patient were hungering for air). The skin's appearance should be noted for color (good, pallid, or cyanotic) as well as for condition (warm and moist, or cold and clammy).

Administration of oxygen—an almost routine procedure in the care of cardiac patients, and occasionally required by others—calls for precise interpretation of doctors' orders as well as careful scrutiny of the anesthesia record. Unless otherwise specified, the nasal catheter method of administration

is preferred, with the intake rate varying from four to ten liters a minute.

Temperature, taken initially on admission, is recorded every four hours thereafter as a rule, unless conditions require it oftener. After anesthesia involving hypothermia, temperature readings may be required as often as every five minutes. Pulse, respirations, and temperature are taken immediately after whole blood is administered.

All drainage tubes and catheters must be checked carefully at frequent intervals, and proper observations recorded hourly (or as ordered) on the fluid level of each drainage bottle and the character

of its content. (Successive levels are usually marked on the bottle with adhesive tape, so that drainage can be followed at a glance.)

If, on admission, immediate orders call for the use of a Levine tube connected to Wangensteen suction, the tube must be checked constantly to see that it doesn't become plugged; also, it must be irrigated very slowly and carefully at specified intervals. Gastric tubes are irrigated every thirty minutes for the first two hours, and subsequently every hour unless otherwise indicated.

All tubing connected to suction apparatus and drainage bottles is securely taped to the sheet (and

SURGICAL NURSE

*I follow wounds beyond the scalpel's edge,
And ponder Nature's power to restore.
The healing cells alert for battle pledge
Replacement of the flesh—no less, no more.
The deep intaglio of the burning knife
Is bridged until the eye can hardly find
A scar. The Author of the law of life
Performs in ways beyond the ken of mind.
I marvel at the wisdom of the cells—
The body from its bionomic flask
Pours living serum in the wound. It gels,
Restoring all that human hope could ask.
I marvel...! How can Nature understand,
Once healing is complete, to stay her hand?*

—Nicholas Lloyd Ingraham

sometimes to the patient's body to prevent looping. Here, care must be exercised to allow the patient enough freedom to move without dislodging a tube as he does so.

Forceps and clamps are kept within reach for ready use in clamping off tubes when and if the need arises. In such an emergency as—for example—the breaking of a drainage bottle, its tubing could thus be clamped off immediately.

A frequent check is maintained on all I.V.'s to be sure the needle is intact and the infusion running properly. To keep the needle from being dislodged from the vein, the patient's arm is often strapped to an armboard, but in a way that the arm is not entirely immobilized.

An accurate record is kept of the patient's intake and output, with the character as well as the volume of all output duly charted.

Dressings are checked at least every half-hour, and any staining is reported at once. Meticulous observation and immediate report are especially important in the case of patients who have undergone thyroid or radical neck surgery; here, a hematoma is likely to develop under the dressing.

Safety straps are frequently used to prevent an unconscious patient from injuring himself through involuntary movements. In reacting, he may—for example—rip off a dressing or pull an intravenous needle out of his arm. If wrist re-

straints are deemed necessary, a gauze wrapping is applied first to prevent chafing of the wrists. Most children require elbow restraints—for they instinctively reach for their dressings when they react.

Involuntary movements, swallowing, and blinking presage the return to consciousness, with nausea and vomiting a common occurrence, especially among children. Precautionary measures should therefore be taken to prevent aspiration of vomitus and to keep dressings from being soiled. If machine suctioning is resorted to, a clean rubber catheter is obviously essential—with a basin of water handy for cleansing the suction tip.

Caution is necessary in suctioning the throats of patients who have had tonsillectomies; irritation of the operative area may cause bleeding or added discomfort. Similarly, with those who have had cleft palate repairs, one must be careful not to dislodge the packing by suctioning too far back in the throat.

Unless orders expressly indicate that the patient should not be moved, his position is changed frequently—even while he is still unconscious—to prevent pulmonary congestion and atelectasis. In most cases, the head of the bed is raised slightly as soon as he has fully reacted, and he is encouraged to cough, to take deep breaths, and to move about in the bed.

The coughing procedure—which must be carried out at least once an hour—is particularly difficult for those who have undergone surgery of the neck, chest, and abdomen; hence, artificially induced coughing must frequently be resorted to. Many recovery units are now equipped with a special machine, the Cof-flator, designed expressly for this purpose.

Following administration of a spinal anesthetic, the patient is required to lie flat in bed, with a small pillow for head support. All unnecessary pressure on his legs and toes must be avoided, and he must be watched closely for any decrease in blood pressure, as well as for reactions that might affect his motor or sensory return.

Bladder dysfunction is a common postanesthesia occurrence, and spontaneous urination is encouraged to prevent overdistention. Catheterization is preferably avoided.

Since most patients experience more or less pain in the operative area following the return to consciousness, their need for relief is invariably anticipated by doctors' orders covering the administration of a narcotic. Current practice, however, commonly calls for minimal dosage—to insure the cooperation of the patient in coughing, deep breathing, etc.; hence, if pain persists after such dosage, the physician should be notified.

As with any bedfast patient, un-

due pressure that might lead to skin irritations must be avoided. Again, constant check is indicated.

Emergency trays maintained in most recovery rooms include those needed for cardiac arrest, endotracheal procedures and tracheotomies, venous cut-downs, and bleeding tonsils and adenoids.

Not to be overlooked—nor in any way underestimated—is the need which almost all surgical patients have for psychological support during the immediate postoperative period. Thus, the responsibility of the recovery room nurse is by no means limited to bedside procedures, safety factors, and the relief of physical pain; all these can lose much of their value unless she also provides the kind of reassurance which will help the patient to develop a positive attitude toward the surgery just completed and an optimistic, confident outlook. "You'll be back on your feet in a very few days" may well be her favorite expression.

Generally speaking, the patient is transferred from the recovery unit to his own room or ward as soon as his condition permits—that is, after all vital signs are stabilized and postoperative infusions completed. En route, he is attended by a recovery room nurse, who supplies the charge nurse on his floor with a detailed report of his care and doctors' orders for further medication and treatment.

«»



Thousands of words have been written about fire emergency procedures and most of them have been devoted to complicated and extensive evacuation planning. Too little attention has been given to handling a situation in the room or area where the fire starts.

Before we consider the evacuation of entire hospitals, floors, and wings, we ought to know what steps are necessary to remove one patient from one bed, and how best to extinguish a waste basket fire with a minimum of excitement.

To rescue patients who are in

Drawing on his experience in training nurses, a lieutenant in the Chicago Fire Department tells what steps should be taken . . .



When FIRE Strikes

by Robert McGrath

immediate danger, we need to know how to handle patients and how to combat fire. No one can predict the exact nature of an emergency, of course, but those who've had fire and removal training will adjust best to a difficult situation. Actually, correct application of emergency patient removal and first aid firefighting techniques may eliminate the need for extensive evacuation. Only when the first two functions prove inadequate is there necessity for large-scale retreat.

For many years, various hospital safety experts have nonchal-

antly advised nurses to move patients if necessary. Some have suggested escorting patients to safety. This presents a considerable problem if, say, one in three patients is helpless.

Scores of nurses have talked to me about existing suggestions for handling patients. None of us thought much of them, and as far as solutions were concerned, we were not ashamed to acknowledge our ignorance. Working together over a period of weeks, we were able to design and adopt six basic emergency removals which have been tested and approved by nurses



▲ *The cradle drop*



◀ *Pack strap carry*

in 124 hospitals in eight states.

We feel that any situation is covered by these basic removals or by a variation, combination, or adjustment of the original set of carries. A great deal depends, of course, on the number of nurses available, the nature of the emergency, and the condition of the patient.

Statistics reveal that 52 per cent of hospital fires occur at night when personnel ranks are depleted and many of the people who comprise the fire brigades are off duty. For the nurse who is apprehensive about being caught alone when fire strikes, two carries

and one blanket drag have been devised.

The *cradle drop* is used if the patient is too heavy to carry, if the bed is low, or if the patient is involved with fire. The nurse pulls the patient with both hands while pushing against the bed with one knee. Once removed to the blanket, the patient is then pulled from the room.

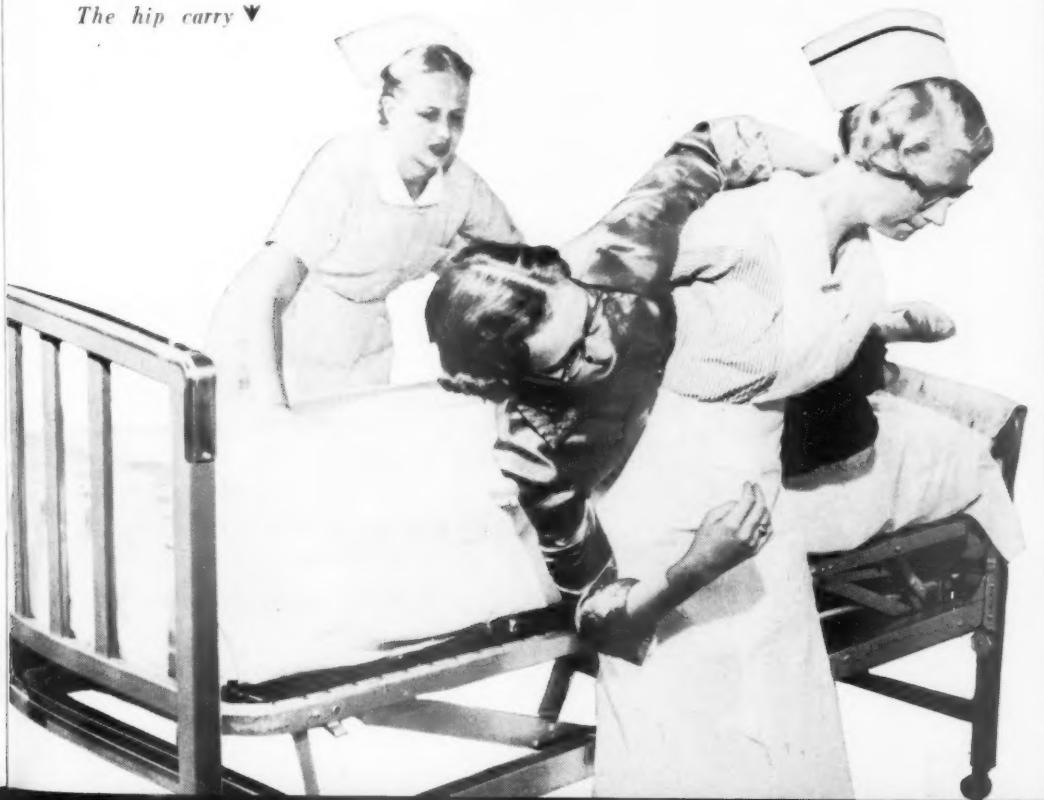
The *pack strap carry* is an old Boy Scout technique which has been adapted for hospital patients. It enables a nurse to carry forty pounds more than her own weight with ease and is particularly useful for going through narrow spaces.

With the *hip carry*, the patient

is carried on the nurse's hips. Several nurses have carried up to sixty-five pounds more than their own weight using this method.

If two nurses are available, or a nurse and an aide, they can carry any patient anywhere, using the *swing carry* (shown on the following page). A favorite among nurses, the method can be used in corridors, on stairwells and fire escapes, and in loading and unloading wheelchairs. It's an improvement on the old chair carry. The patient's weight is suspended from the shoulders of the nurses making the carry. Using the swing carry, nurses have carried 300 pounds in corridors and 200 on stairs and fire escapes. [MORE]

The hip carry ▼





◀ *The swing carry*

In the *extremity carry*, which is useful for negotiating tight quarters, the patient is carried between two nurses in single file.

Three-nurse removal is similar to the three-man carry which is standard in first aid work. It is not a slide and then a pick and a turn, however. Using the principle that a body in motion tends to stay in motion, the slide, pick, and turn are a continuous motion. Nurses using this method do not go through a doorway in the usual side-step manner. Instead, they walk out obliquely, almost in single file. It's faster this way; three or four patients can be removed in the time it would take to remove one using the side-step procedure.

Eighteen other carries based on these basic six are illustrated and described in detail in "Emergency Removal of Patients and Firefighting in Hospitals," a manual available from the National Safety Council, 425 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. (Price \$1.25 each.)



Fighting fire

Fire is possible only when oxygen, heat, and fuel are brought together. Eliminate any one of these and we have no fire.

To deprive a fire of oxygen, we must actually smother it. This is

◀ *The extremity carry*

the best method for flammable liquids, grease, oil, or electrical fires. We might use a blanket, a carbon dioxide extinguisher, foam, sand, a fine spray of water particles, or even a newspaper. We simply stop the fire by depriving it of oxygen.

To deprive a fire of heat, we must lower the temperature below the ignition point. This is usually done by the application of water to the burning material. Actually, this cools the fire to a point where it will no longer burn. Applying water to flame will not solve the problem: it is necessary to drench the burning material.

Water is the best extinguishing agent for paper, wood, or textile fires. There are several devices for propelling water with force enough to penetrate to the seat of the fire.

Nurses would be most apt to encounter the soda and acid extinguisher and the hose line in their working areas. They should be familiar with the characteristics and operation of each.

The soda acid extinguisher is a brass cylinder equipped with a short rubber hose and nozzle. It should always be placed on the floor first as a complete operation because nurses have been injured in attempting to procure and to carry it in one movement.

When it is on the wall, the heel of one hand should be placed against the ring at the top and the palm of the other hand should be placed underneath. Now the cylinder should be pushed upward about one inch until clear of the hook upon which it hangs. [MORE]

Three-nurse removal ▼



Next, lower it to the floor, where it is then ready for carrying.

The cylinder can be carried shorter distances by grasping the ring in one hand. It weighs thirty-five pounds and can get quite heavy if it is to be taken very far. On the customary smooth floors of the hospital corridor, it can be dragged upright with one hand. It slides very easily over the floor surface.

To use the extinguisher, stop at the threshold of the fire room or stop five feet in front of the fire. The water will shoot thirty to forty feet, but that is too far from the target. Now for the first time take the hose in one hand, grasp the

ring on top with the other hand and tip the cylinder *toward* the fire until it is lying on its side. Right close to your knee, you will find a handle on the bottom of the extinguisher. Grip the handle on the bottom of it and lift the cylinder upright, so that it is standing upside down.

Move the hose back and forth while you wet down whatever is burning. Use the handle to carry the extinguisher to more advantageous points. If you can put out the fire with two or three quarts of water, it is not necessary to stand there for the average minute and discharge the whole contents. If the fire is out, return the cyl-



Depriving fire of oxygen

inder to its original upright position. Gas will continue to come out, but the flow of water will cease.

The hose line should be employed when one or two extinguishers cannot put out the fire. Hospital hose lines are usually seventy-five to 100 feet long. When one of them is to be used, it should be stretched out completely, either in a straight line or interlaced through the corridor so that it contains no kinks to interfere with the flow of water.

Three nurses are needed to operate the hose line. One should remain at the water outlet and open and close the valve as directed by the other two nurses. Each of these two assumes a position on either side of the hose line just behind the nozzle. If there is a good deal of heat coming from the room, the nurses should operate the water stream from a kneeling position, just outside the door. When the room has been cooled somewhat, the two nurses can operate from a standing position, moving the stream back and forth until the fire is out. The nurse at the valve then shuts off the water.

Never work with more water than you need or can handle. The nurse at the water outlet needs only to open the valve a turn or a turn and a half to her left. The flow of water tends to push the two nurses back, so they should grip the hose firmly and press



Depriving fire of heat.

it against the hip while keeping one foot forward as a brace. Hundreds of nurses have been trained in handling a hose line.

We have discussed removing oxygen and then heat from the trilogy so necessary to sustain fire. Oxygen and heat alone will not support combustion without fuel. Separating fuel from the other two constituents is a little trickier, once joined. It might mean removing additional adjacent or adjoining combustible materials which can add support to the fire already going. It might mean moving gases, liquids, acids or powders from the fire area. One sure way to separate the fuel is to let it exhaust itself by burning out completely. Fire must continue to feed on added fuel or else it will eventually die of malnutrition. »»



The Changing Needs of People

by Lucile Petry Leone*

As we think together of the changing needs of people and our thoughts run to the designing of services, we remember that we—we nurses—are not alone. We believe that nursing, in addition to contributing its competence in caring for people, also makes a large contribution to the cohesive force that makes group action greater than the sum of individual actions.

We might start our thinking with fundamental health needs of the people. Through the centuries, people's fundamental needs probably have changed very little. They need care when they are ill. They need ways of preventing illness. They need health information they can use. But their perception of these needs, in themselves and by others, has changed and deepened. The

great names of Koch, Pasteur, and Semmelweis were linked with these changes. We could name a long list of others. Understanding of cause-and-effect relationships changed man's concept of disease from a visitation by evil spirits to a belief that the factors causing him to be sick might be controlled. We credit biological sciences with many of the changes in *perception* of needs.

We credit the Christian-Judaic philosophy and its emphasis on the dignity of the individual human being with many of the changes in attitude about *whose* needs are to be perceived. The words, "the least of these, my brethren" and "my brother's keeper" were powerful influences on attitude. Now we speak of the right to health as a universal human right.

What we know in this generation as social science has also changed our perception of needs. The homely maxim "you can lead a horse to

*The author is chief nurse officer, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. From a paper delivered at Public Health Nursing Section program, 1956 American Public Health Association Convention.



water but you can't make him drink" is one of the concepts. Today, we strive to perceive man's emotional, spiritual, and intellectual needs as well as his physical needs. We strive to see how all these are related.

Changed perceptions of needs even find their way into political platforms. Witness the attention given to the needs of old age in the last campaign.

Along with changed perception have come changed expectations of the extent and manner in which needs can be met. The concept of rehabilitation — of restoring the sick person partly or fully to his former state of good health—has changed both perceptions and expectations. I do not know whether the availability of rehabilitation techniques caused us to expect to be able to meet these needs, or whether the needs prompted us to develop the techniques. I think the

pattern in meeting needs is something like this: someone perceives a need and works to find a way to meet it. Finding a way, he demonstrates that it is useful. Seeing the demonstration successful, others perceive their own needs and ask for the same services. Then these services multiply and become organized to reach vast numbers of people.

In these times of rapid communication, this process is telescoped. For the polio vaccine, first we had the small trial, then the larger trial, then the general vaccination program—a much faster process than in the fight against smallpox.

In the 1920's, when the need was to cure a fever, we used the alcohol sponge. In the 1930's, we had the antipyretic drugs to reduce fever. In the 1940's, we had the antibiotics to destroy the infection causing the fever. Science changed the expectations of people. [MORE]

When our grandparents were young and the need was to save the sick child, they could not always meet it. Families could not really expect that all the babies would live and grow up. The expectation was occasional failure—some would die. Then came new knowledge and the public health nurse with her horse and her flivver. Health education came into the school and college. And now there is a wealth of information on child health in books, pamphlets, magazines, and on TV programs.

What we learn intensifies perception. Sensitivity to need intensifies the search for knowledge. And so it is our perception of need and our expectation of meeting it that change, rather than need itself.

The task of the nurse is to see people's needs and to see their perception of their own needs—then to interpret these perceptions to others who join in meeting needs. In this process the nurse and other health workers must also perceive how their own needs, for example—their emotional needs—affect their understanding and their actions in meeting needs of others. The task of the nurse is to participate in the development of realistic expectations on the part of people whose needs are to be met.

Is it *where* people have their needs met—inside hospitals or outside hospitals—that determines that the nursing given is public health

nursing? Or is it *what service* they receive—curative or preventive—that determines that the nursing given is public health nursing? Or is it the *type of agency* to which people go for help that determines which type of nursing they receive? Or is it the purpose for which a person seeks help—therapeutic, preventive, health teaching?

No one of these four—where, what nature, which agency, what purpose—distinguishes completely the nursing services that are clinical from those that are public health. Nurses in hospitals are giving more and more health information to their patients and to their patients' families who visit them; this is part of the therapy in which the nurse participates. And nurses in public health agencies are doing more clinical nursing as greater numbers of patients with chronic diseases are cared for in their own homes.

The service a nurse gives in a physician's office is likely to be called clinical nursing. She may be doing exactly the same things the public health nurse does in a well-baby clinic.

And so we see the cleavage fading and becoming dimmer. Rehabilitation, self-help, and early ambulation are adding the coloring of what was once considered public health nursing to clinical nursing. And the care of patients with chronic diseases is giving clinical

coloring to public health nursing. I do not think that these new shades and tones of the 1950's mean that in the future all nurses will be both clinical and public health nurses; some of the old distinctions are merely disappearing. It is not likely that the differences in major emphases will disappear. The implication of the new colorings is, I think, that nurses in hospitals and nurses in public health agencies have need to learn from each other, to learn together, and to work together in group action. This is one of the cooperative groupings of health workers which

facilitates the effective meeting of people's health needs.

Let us analyze the three fundamental needs of people: 1) care when sick; 2) preventive services; and 3) usable health information. Nurses join in group action toward meeting these needs. I'm concerned with those needs which public health nurses meet. Our perception of the needs for care when sick includes the need for early diagnosis. Screening, case-finding, tracing contacts—community health surveys, epidemiological studies of populations, dissemination of knowledge of danger signals—these

PROBLE



"HOLD IT — I CAN'T FIND YOUR EMESIS BASIN"

are some of the activities of public health in which nurses participate in varying degrees.

Many people are helped to seek and accept medical care besides those with whom specific public health activities are immediately concerned. For example, a nurse was searching for evidences of genetic abnormalities as part of a community survey. She found a family whose troublesome symptoms were traced to the presence of an unusual type of intestinal worms. The epidemiological study that resulted from this discovery brought about a change in the methods used in the sewage treatment plant where the father of this family was working. So a source of infection endangering a much larger group of people than she knew was eliminated.

In my unguarded moments I sometimes think that some "programs" are just excuses to get public health nurses into family settings, to circulate in a community, and once circulating, they find what needs to be done and do it whether related to "program" or not.

Perfecting alertness

Another major instigation of the search for an early diagnosis is in the observation by the public health nurse of members of the family of the person she cares for. The public health nurse is always what the sociologist would call an "instru-

mentality of early diagnosis" whether or not case-finding is the object of her current activity. Her education must perfect alertness.

I mentioned our grandparents' expectations for their children. Their usual expectation for the boy or girl who did not show normal intelligence was failure; their attitude, shame or disgrace. We now know that quite a number of children who seem to be mentally retarded can be rehabilitated. In many cases, with intensified, personal nursing care, good home care, and love and affection, they can be brought to what we consider ordinary intelligence. The public health nurse's perception and alertness help find retarded children who have this potential. The finest kind of group action takes place when schools and the health professions work together for these children.

The need for care when sick is perceived also as a need for teaching a family to give that care which is within its capacity. It includes also the provision of relief from responsibility for care when the responsibility is too heavy. Here the public health nurse needs fine judgment of the family's capacity to care for patients at home including the family's emotional capacity. Then, too, the patient's needs for care can sometimes be met increasingly by himself, this is a part of his therapy. Supervision of other personnel, trained practical nurses,

for example, increasingly becomes one method of meeting the need for care at home.

Rehabilitation as a need

The needs for care include rehabilitation to the point of the best recovery possible. Needs for rehabilitation include those of persons with disability with which they have lived for some time. The public health nurse finds these people, holds out new hope, and supports the will to seek help on the part of the disabled and family. She either puts the person into the channels herself through which help can come or refers him to someone who will. She gives support to the person and family during the rehabilitation process and ultimate adjustment. This calls for knowledge of what conditions yield to what degree of rehabilitation, and of facilities and of how these may be utilized. It means continued contact with the person undergoing rehabilitation and his family in an attempt to help with constructive attitudes of support.

For some patients the rehabilitation process is guided entirely by the public health nurse herself. Many nurses may have enough ingenuity to play this role—a solo one, by necessity, in some cases but there are techniques that can be learned. Every nurse should know how to teach patients and families the aids to daily living. These should be learned in basic

nursing education and in in-service training.

I was speculating one day about how much difference it would make to the millions who are bedridden if every nurse in the U.S. knew how to teach them the aids to daily living. Many nurses know; but how can we reach all the others, including each new group of students? That day I heard a distinguished speaker describe a successful experiment in teaching high school physics by television and read a report of teaching the Red Cross home nursing course by television. Here, it seemed to me was a subject—*aids to daily living*—which lent itself to that fabulous medium we are only now learning to exploit as a means of meeting needs professionally perceived.

Community action

Another need for rehabilitation is found among the recently ill who were among the patients for whom rehabilitation was not considered a part of therapy and for whom facilities do not exist. Here is a community problem in which the public health nurse joins other community leaders in action. She needs specific knowledge of desirable objectives of community action, particularly if she is in a position of leadership.

More and more often we see

continued on page 86



by Morton J. Rodman, Ph.D.

Today's surgeon asks for more than analgesia
when he asks for . . .

Anesthetic: general—Purpose: specific

When he is about to undergo surgery, the patient's only concern with his anesthetic is this: will it keep him from feeling pain during the operation? Analgesia — reduced pain sensibility — is indeed an important property of anesthetic agents; but the objectives of modern anesthesiology have been broadened far beyond mere pain prevention.

The anesthesiologist is concerned mainly with ways of minimizing changes in the patient's vital functions during anesthesia. By means of newly developed drugs and tech-

niques that help control the patient's breathing, blood flow, muscle tone, and metabolism, the anesthesiologist seeks both to meet the surgeon's needs and to maintain the patient's physiological state at its optimum.

Accomplishing these objectives requires a thorough understanding of physiological functions and how drugs may best be used to alter them favorably. The anesthesiologist must be able to choose the anesthetic best suited to the patient and the operation. Some procedures call for the judicious use of

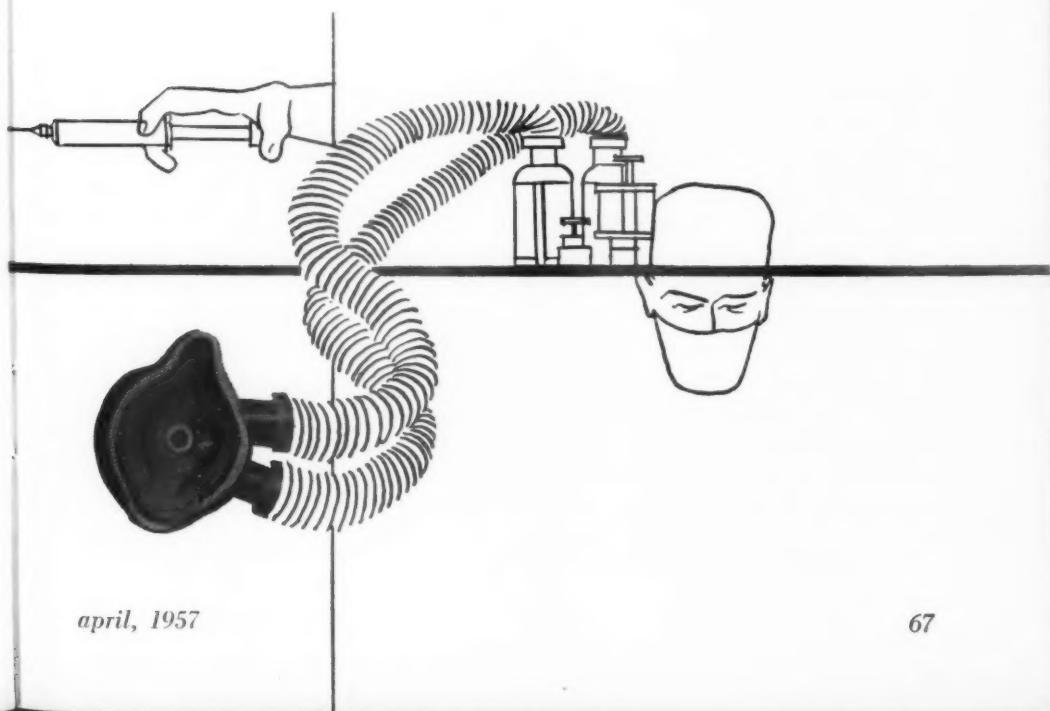
a single anesthetic in minimal amounts; others can be carried out only by skillful administration of combinations of several drugs before, after, and during the operation.

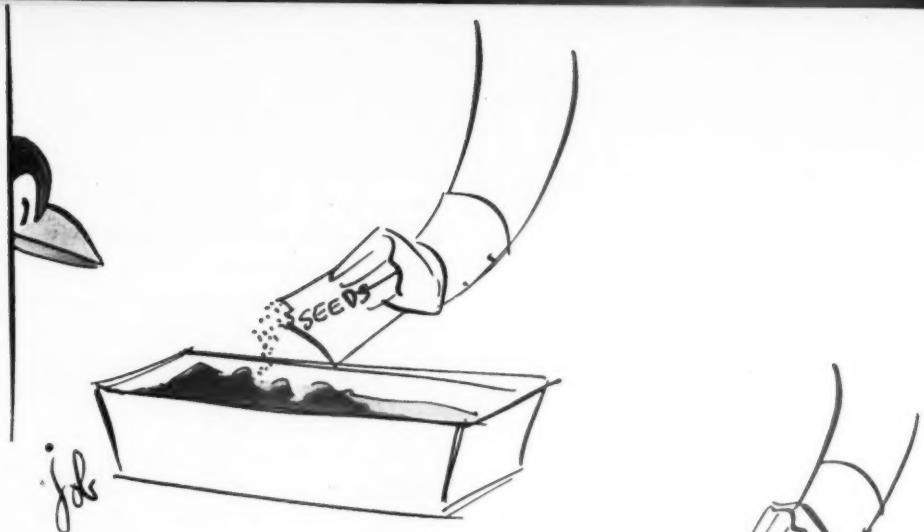
While the anesthesiologist may utilize many different drugs that act on various organs and structures, the overall effect of a general anesthetic is the result of a progressive depression of the central nervous system. Depending upon the dose of the drug and the concentration built up in the nervous tissues, an anesthetic may produce varying degrees of depression, from mild sedation and reduced pain perception through profound muscular relaxation; even death may result from respiratory depression.

Fortunately, such central depres-

sion is marked by a characteristic sequence of signs and symptoms. This enables the experienced anesthetist to determine the depth of anesthesia and to adjust it to the level desirable for each surgical procedure. Recognition of the typical danger signs minimizes the danger of overdosage.

The syndrome that occurs upon inhalation of vapors of volatile liquids (such as ethyl and vinyl ether) or of the anesthetic gases (cyclopropane, ethylene, and nitrous oxide) has been subdivided into a series of stages and planes. This standard system is based upon the presence or absence of various reflexes, the character of respiration, changes in pupillary size, and other signs. Each successive stage reflects the spread of depression.





ZEKE & DESSIE



sion from higher nervous centers to lower areas. Recovery occurs in reverse when the anesthetic level in the nervous tissues is lowered.

The first stage of anesthesia extends from inhalation of the first breath of a volatile anesthetic until consciousness is lost. This stage is marked by disturbance of the functions of the cerebral cortex, manifested by visual and auditory hallucinations, feelings of floating or falling, and other derangements of sensory function. First, numb-

ness and loss of skin sensation occur; presently, there is a complete loss of sensitivity to pain.

Until recently, the use of first stage anesthesia was limited to relief of labor pains and to analgesia for a few minor surgical procedures, such as changing of burn dressings. Lately, however, various major operations, including cardiac surgery, have been performed in the first stage of anesthesia. With careful administration of low concentrations of anesthetic gases,

the patient may be able to obey commands and cooperate, yet remember nothing later of the painful procedures.

The second stage of anesthesia is characterized by involuntary muscle movements, excitement, and even delirium—the result of releasing lower motor centers from inhibition by higher cortical areas knocked out by the anesthetic. No operative procedures are ever attempted during this most dangerous stage of anesthesia. Every effort must be made to take the patient down to deeper levels rapidly and smoothly. This is the basis for the use of "preanesthetic" medication, including the narcotics, morphine and meperidine (Demerol); the belladonna alkaloids, atropine and scopolamine; and the barbiturates, pentobarbital (Nem-

butal) and phenobarbital. The "basal" anesthetics, such as the intravenously administered, ultra-short acting barbiturates, thiopental (Pentothal) and hexobarbital (Evipal), are also employed to bring about rapid, relatively pleasant induction of anesthesia.

The third, or "surgical" stage of anesthesia begins when excitement ceases and the irregular respiration of the previous stage return to normal. This stage is commonly subdivided into four planes, the second of which is preferred for performing most surgical operations. Here, depression of the spinal cord is sufficient to bring about relaxation of skeletal muscles (including those of the abdominal wall) without altering respiration, which remains full and regular.

[MORE]



Further deepening of anesthesia results in gradual paralysis of the chest muscles and, finally, depression of the diaphragm.

Complete paralysis of these muscles and cessation of even abdominal respiratory movements marks the onset of the fourth stage. Failure of the vital respiratory and vasomotor centers in the medulla oblongata at this time can lead to death very quickly. Immediate withdrawal of the anesthetic and application of resuscitative measures are essential. Of course, anesthesia should never be allowed to go this far—nor, indeed, much beyond the second plane of the surgical stage—unless the lungs are being aerated by mechanical means.

It is now possible, even with the patient in the higher planes of anesthesia, to obtain the deep muscular relaxation required for certain abdominal operations. Curare and other non-anesthetic skeletal muscle relaxants, when administered as adjuncts to anesthesia, act peripherally, to lessen the amount of central depressant required to reduce muscle tone.

Changes in the character of the respiratory movements and certain ocular signs tell the anesthetist that it is time to lighten the anesthesia. A decrease in the depth of chest movements, accompanied by a

ANESTHETICS (GENERAL)

CLASSIFICATION*

1. Volatile (Inhalation) Anesthetics

- (a) Liquids with Volatile Vapors

- (b) Gaseous Anesthetics

2. Basal Anesthetics

(Non volatile; Administered intravenously or rectally, usually in doses adequate for rapid induction but not for deep surgical planes of anesthesia)

3. Adjuncts to Anesthesia

- (a) Preanesthetic Medication
(Some used also post-operatively)

- (b) Skeletal Muscle Relaxants

- (c) Non-anesthetic Gases

*According to method of administration;

AND BASAL) AND ADJUNCTS

OFFICIAL, GENERIC, OR CHEMICAL NAME

1. Ether U.S.P. (Diethyl Oxide)
2. Vinyl Ether U.S.P. (Divinyl Oxide)
3. Chloroform U.S.P. (Trichlormethane)
4. Ethyl Chloride U.S.P. (Monochlorethane)
5. Trichloroethylene U.S.P.
(Trichloroethene)

1. Nitrous Oxide U.S.P.
(Nitrogen Monoxide)
2. Ethylene U.S.P.
3. Cyclopropane U.S.P. (Trimethylene)

1. Tribromoethanol Solution U.S.P.
2. Ultra-short Acting Barbiturates
 - a. Thiopental Sodium U.S.P.
(Thiopentone)
 - b. Hexobarbital Sodium N.F.
(Hexobarbitone)
 - c. Thiamylal Sodium
 - d. Thialbarbitone Sodium
 - e. Methitural Sodium
3. Steroid Anesthetic: Hydroxydione

Depressants:

- Morphine salts U.S.P.
Meperidine Hydrochloride U.S.P.
Barbiturates
ex: Pentobarbital Sodium U.S.P.
ex: Amobarbital Sodium U.S.P.
ex: Secobarbital Sodium U.S.P.

Anticholinergics

- Atropine Sulfate U.S.P.
Scopolamine Hydrobromide U.S.P.

Miscellaneous

- Chlorpromazine Hydrochloride U.S.P.
Promethazine Hydrochloride N. F.
Combinations of all the above
Tubocurarine Chloride U.S.P.
(d-Tubo.) and other Curare Derivatives
Gallamine Triethiodide N.N.R.
Succinylcholine Chloride U.S.P.
Decamethonium Bromide
Benzquinonium Chloride

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physical, chemical and pharmacological properties

TO ANESTHESIA

COMMERCIAL NAMES OR SYNONYMS

Diethyl Ether; Ethyl Ether;
Sulfuric Ether
Vinethene; Divinyl Ether

Kelene; Anodyn; Narcotile
Trilene; Trethylene

Laughing Gas

Ethene; Olefant Gas

Avertin with Amylene Hydrate

Pentothal Sodium

Evipal Sodium

Surital Sodium
Kemithal Sodium
Neraval Sodium
Viadril

Demerol, Pethidine; Dolantin

Nembutal; Pental; Embutal
Amytal Sodium
Seconal Sodium

Hyoscine Hydrobromide

Thorazine Hcl
Phenergan Hcl; Lergigan

Tubadil, Tubarine

Flaxedil Triethiodide
Anectine; Quelicin, Sucostrin
Syncurine; C-10
Mytolon Chloride

NEWS

NLN Convention Theme: Improved Nursing Care

More than 7,000 nurses, students, representatives of allied groups, and interested lay citizens are expected to attend the third biennial meeting of the National League for Nursing in Chicago, May 6-10.

Under discussion will be education's role in helping to meet mounting demands for more nursing service caused by a growing and aging population, increased number of beds in hospitals and nursing homes, and community nursing care because of more rapid return of patients to their homes.

Keynoting the five-day meeting, which has as its theme "Good Nursing Service, Sound Nursing Education, and Active Citizen Participation," is Dr. Howard Thurman, dean of the chapel, Boston University. His subject is the responsibility of the professions to society.

Another speaker at the general sessions of the convention will be Major William E. Mayer, instructor in neuropsychiatric procedures at the Army Medical Service School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Major Mayer is the author of sev-

eral articles on communist techniques of brainwashing, and he emphasizes the need for developing convictions about principles of democracy in individuals which enable them to withstand communist indoctrination methods.

ANA Wants R.N.'s Among Top Brass in Armed Forces

Chief nurses in the Army and Air Force will be brigadier generals and the chief nurse in the Navy will be a rear admiral, if the American Nurses Association has anything to say about it.

Agnes Ohlson, ANA president, recently urged in Washington that she would like to see ladies among the top brass in the Armed Forces. Miss Ohlson testified in support of H.R. 2460 which provides an increase in the number of nurse officers permitted the ranks above captain and lieutenant, stating that this would improve career opportunities and encourage enlistments in the nurse corps.

"The present provisions for promotion and retirement of nurse officers are not in line with the responsibilities discharged by members of the nurse corps," Miss Ohlson said. "Nor are they sufficient

to attract and hold the numbers of qualified professional nurses needed to maintain the authorized strength of the corps. Enactment of H.R. 2460 would in some measure correct the present inequities and thereby make military nursing a more satisfying career."

In urging higher ranks for chief nurses, ANA pointed out that such action would bring them in line with ranks now held by members of the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Catholic Schools Provide Third of Graduate Nurses

Catholic schools of nursing are turning out one-third of all the graduate registered nurses in the nation, according to Margaret Foley, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Schools of Nursing.

The nation's 322 Catholic nursing schools are providing a higher percentage of professional people, says Miss Foley, than Catholic schools in "any other phase of education." Fully accredited Catholic nursing schools increased 33 per cent during the last year.

Commenting on the acute nursing shortage all over the country,

Miss Foley pointed out that hospitals could be fully staffed if seven per cent of all high school girl graduates chose nursing as a career. At present the percentage is fluctuating between six and seven per cent.

Detroit School Offers Several Nursing Grants

Three graduate teaching fellowships and several U.S. Public Health scholarships will be offered by Wayne State University's College of Nursing during the 1957-58 academic year.

Two fellowships are offered for nurses who wish to prepare for teaching in medical-surgical nursing and one is offered in nursing service administration. Nurses awarded the fellowships spend twenty hours a week supervising basic degree students in their clinical practice under direction of the department head. The other half of their time is spent studying at least eight hours a semester toward a Master of Science degree in nursing.

Nurses must be eligible for graduate work and have several years experience in nursing education or nursing service. Stipend is \$2,018

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for the ten month academic year. Tuition and non-resident fees are waived during the fellowship.

A number of U.S. Public Health scholarships in psychiatric nursing will also be available during the coming academic year. Programs cover the fall and spring semester and one summer session. Students enrolled in the bachelor's program study teaching and administration in psychiatric nursing and receive a grant of \$2,000. Graduate students receive \$2,400.

Special consideration will be given to nurses applying before May 15, 1957. For information and applications, write Dean Katherine Faville, College of Nursing, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

Drugs Bring New Approach To Psychiatric Nursing

Psychiatric nurses will play a key role in the nation-wide study of tranquilizing drugs which was started not long ago in Veterans Administration hospitals. They'll work with psychiatrists in rating the changes in behavior of patients receiving the drugs.

The use of such drugs to bring patients back into contact with reality is largely responsible for a change in the entire role of the mental hospital and its staff, and has brought about a new approach in VA hospitals to psychiatric nursing.

"Disturbed behavior of mental patients," says Cecilia H. Hauge, director of nursing service at the

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VA central office in Washington, "has been reduced drastically, as has the need for wet sheet packs and continuous tub baths to calm patients, and for electric and insulin shock treatment."

As a result of "revolutionary changes" taking place in VA mental hospitals, research is one of many new opportunities offered psychiatric nurses by the VA, according to Miss Hauge. Psychiatrists are using the nurse's contacts with patients as part of the therapeutic program of the hospital, and the nurse goes with patients for their recreation and other therapeutic activities.

AORN Elects Officers

The Association of Operating Room nurses elected officers at their fourth national congress in Los Angeles. Chosen president was Miss Pauline Young, Philadelphia; vice-president, Miss Frances Reeser, New York City; secretary, Mrs. Mary Kreitz, Los Angeles; treasurer, Mrs. Ann Dodge Sasse, New York City. A board of directors also was elected, and Miss

Edith Dee Hall was named executive secretary.

ABOUT PEOPLE

For outstanding leadership and achievement in nursing, the Mary Adelaide Nutting Award has been presented to *Nell V. Beeby*, retiring executive editor of "The American Journal of Nursing." Earlier recipients have included Adelaide Nutting, Isabel Stewart, Annie Goodrich, Stella Goostray, Mary M. Roberts, and Frances P. Bolton. Groups honored have been the International Council of Nurses and the Maternity Center Association of New York . . . *Jeanette V. White*, who was appointed editor of the AJN last year, died suddenly at her home last month . . . New executive director of The Journal Company, which publishes AJN, is *Pearl McIver*. She'll assume the new post next August . . . *Rose A. Coyle*, director of nursing, Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital, Jersey City, N.J., retired in March. Her successor is *Ruth A. Watters*, former director of nursing education.

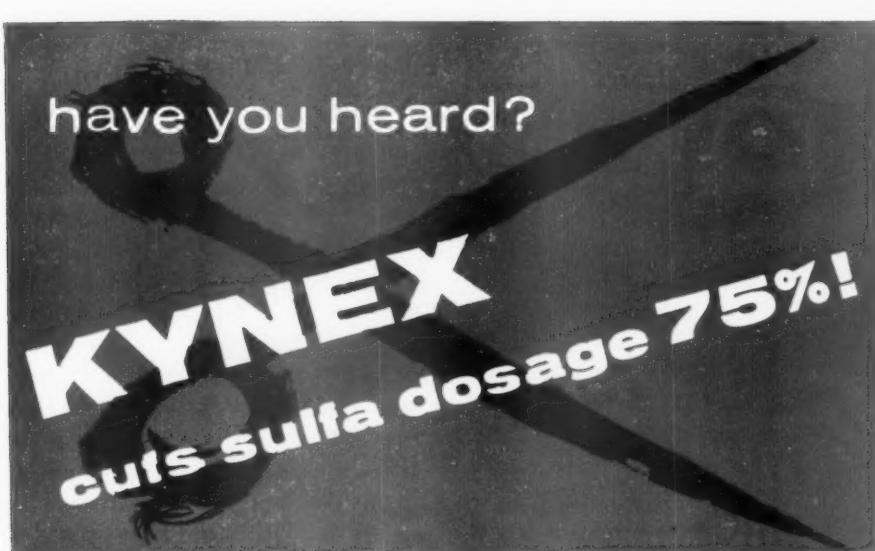


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EDITORIAL

continued from page 35

cussed with the ANA and the League their organizational needs and aspirations. The NLN finally referred them to the ANA and the ANA could offer them only less than section status.

In 1954, the first national meeting of the AORN local units was held in New York City. It was an instantaneous success. The following two national conferences were held in St. Louis and Boston, which gave additional proof that no existing national nursing organization could give them the caliber of program that they could provide for themselves.

The answer to the long-pending question as to whether the AORN would eventually become a bona-fide national association, complete with national constitution, bylaws, dues, officers, board of directors, and executive secretary* was dependent upon the ANA's next step.

At the ANA Biennial in 1956, intersectional conferences for OR nurses were approved. The OR nurses wanted a section on district, state, and national levels with sufficient budget and autonomy to continue the kind of service programs they believed they needed.

In June 1956, following the ANA Biennial, AORN representatives met with ANA representatives

*Edith Dee Hall, executive secretary, AORN Headquarters, 305 W. 18th St., New York, N.Y.

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to explore the possibility of the AORN becoming an affiliated ANA group, similar in organizational pattern to the autonomous relation of the American College of Surgeons to the American Medical Association. This request was denied.

At its fourth national congress in Los Angeles this past February, over 1600 OR nurses heard that their delegates had answered the question. The AORN no longer is a loosely allied group of some eighty units headed by a national planning committee; it is now a national association. However, this association is not in opposition to, or in conflict with, any other professional association. Dual membership in the AORN and the ANA OR sections and intersectional conferences is permitted members.

Whether or not this is a judicious step remains to be seen. Possibly enlightened educational programs in the form of institutes, workshops, university courses, and qualified consultants could, in time, have satisfied the OR nurses' unmet needs. But then again, if the OR nurses had not collectively sought forum provisions for themselves, would any of the established professional associations have provided it for them?

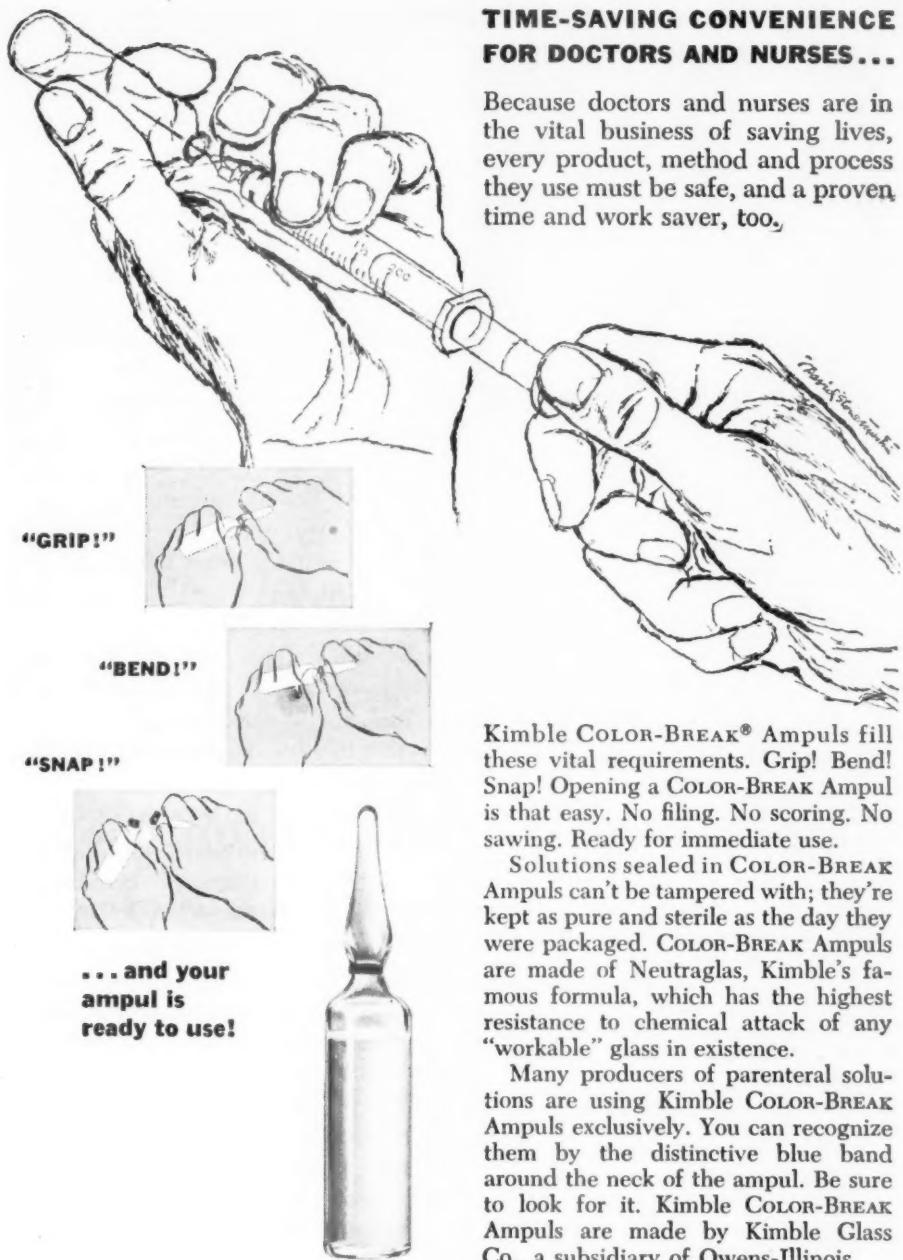
The organizational patterns of the OR nurses at the present moment resemble nothing as comprehensible as a jigsaw puzzle. A nurse in the operating room is eligible: to belong to her state nurses' association operating room section

if the state permits such a section; to participate in an intersectional conference if she is a member of an SNA without an OR Section, and on a national level if one is formed; to participate in the American College of Surgeons' regional meetings when nursing programs are included; and/or she may now join the new AORN through a local unit, or join the national directly by paying national dues of \$1.00. It is a "puzzlement" as to which and how many to join.

Interestingly enough, with all the organizational confusion, there has yet to be heard a serious complaint of duplication of programs. It would appear that there is much to catch up with and much more to learn before criticism in this quarter is verbalized.

Criticism of another nature, however, has been leveled at the AORN group. Since the first national meeting, charges of "commercialism" have been hurled at its members. Are there bases for these accusations?

Yes, the AORN is guilty of attracting the interest and moral support of the leading surgical supply, equipment, and pharmaceutical companies. Four hundred exhibitors attended this last congress. In the past, one company supported an OR department in *Hospital Topics*, a hospital magazine, to provide space in which the AORN members could exchange ideas and have their convention procedures published. Another company publishes *ORS*, a



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house organ type magazine which is sent free to all OR supervisors, but at no time has this group accepted financial assistance from any of these.

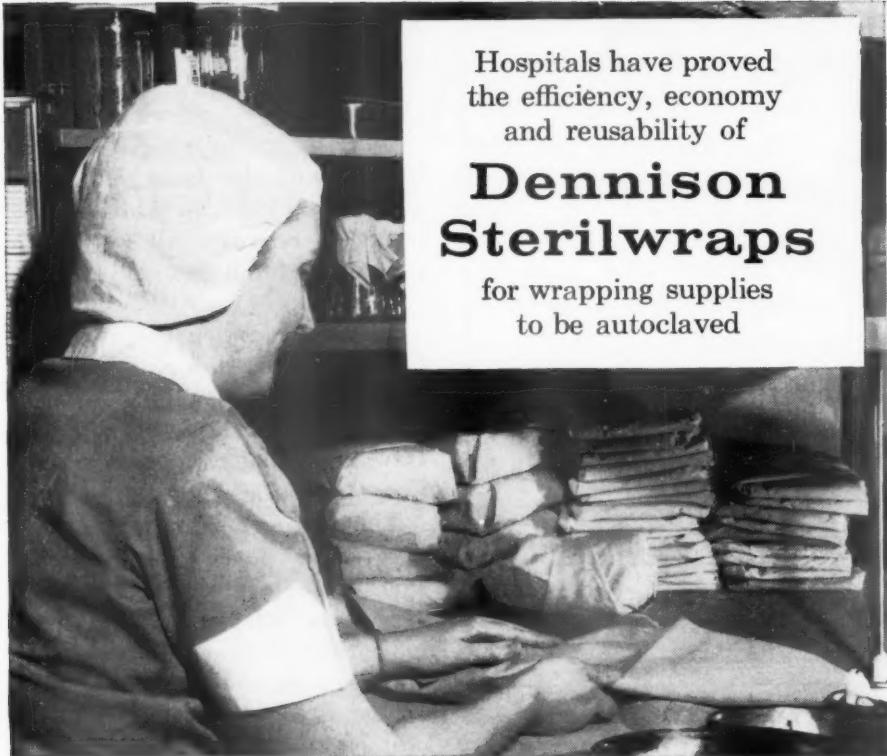
The bill for the annual congresses is paid for by the revenue received from the sale of exhibit space. Also, at the conclaves, a few companies vie with each other to entertain the group—sometimes rather lavishly.

Whether or not a combination of these may turn the OR supervisor's head to give the nod to the right detail man is a matter of individual professional conscience. It is natural that a group seeking help will gravitate toward those who are willing to give that help. But it is not natural that a specialty group in nursing must find recognition of its status and prestige outside its own profession—from surgeons and detail men.

Now that the national AORN has been formed, there will doubtlessly be an acceleration of criticism. Before it starts, the ANA and NLN should do a little breast-beating for its own failure to recognize and treat the overt signs and symptoms before this full-blown condition occurred.

We can anticipate one thing in nursing—that professional splinter groups will continue to break off and start new associations when their motivation becomes strong, their numbers large, and so long as unpliant nurses and rigid organizational structures are teamed.

—ALICE R. CLARKE, EDITOR



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SURGICAL MEETINGS

continued from page 45

tal tours and the special demonstrations of the heart and lung pump, the artificial kidney, and tracheotomy care—all of which played to a full house.

The peaks of the AORN congress were reached when the attending delegates voted in a national association (see this month's editorial report), and at Ethicon's fabulous Hawaiian Luau at Los Angeles' Coconut Grove.

The nurses' portion of the ACS program included panel discussions on thoracic surgery, the care of patients with burns, symposia on improving the care of the aged surgical patient, and the management of the patient in the immediate postoperative period. A problem clinic on recovery rooms at both conventions supplied R.N. with a wealth of material for this month's recovery article.

The AORN program more specifically concerned the O.R. nurse. The topics were primarily clinical—such as surgery of the newborn, homologous serum and infectious hepatitis, cardiac arrest, hypothermia in surgery—and on subjects in the problem areas of this specialty, such as safety in the O.R., looking into the future for O.R. nurses, "headaches" in the O.R., the value of patient care in postanesthesia units, sterilization of supplies, and a session devoted to the very important O.R. problem clinic. «»

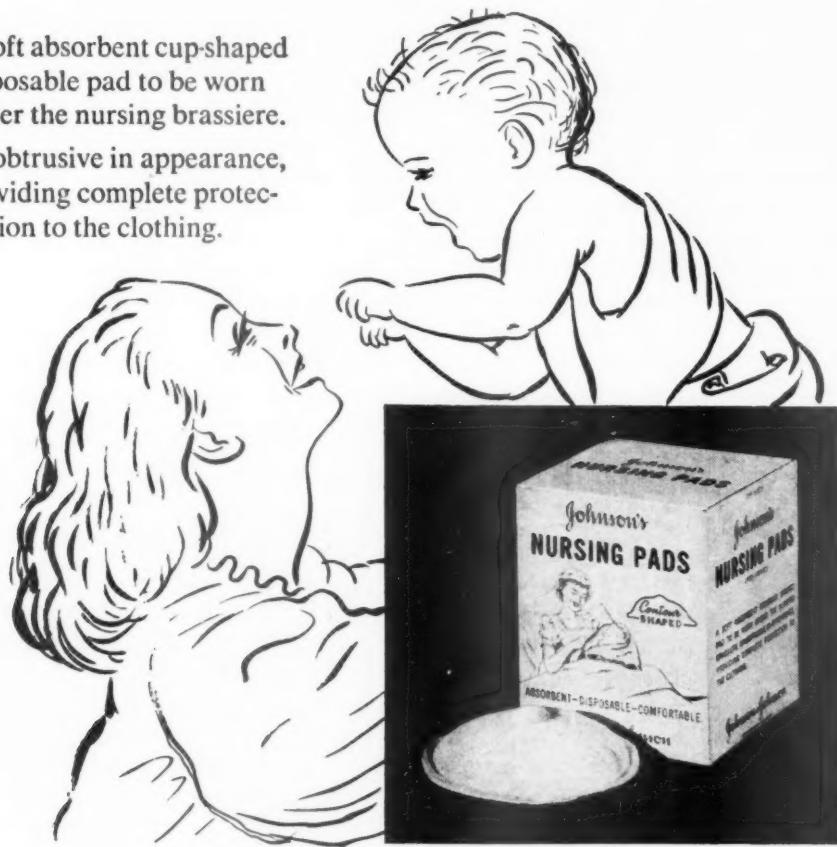
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CHANGING NEEDS

continued from page 65

these services given to ambulatory patients in physicians' offices, clinics, out-patient departments, health units in industry and schools, and in patients' own homes. Transportation to bring patient and services into contact is essential. Once the doctor and nurse were the ones on wheels; now the patient and his family are frequently wheelborne.

Among the ambulatory patients who come to public health nurses' attention are those who have had mental illness and require follow-up care after leaving mental hospitals; and those who are treated for tuberculosis without hospitali-

zation. From the trend of medicine, it seems certain these needs will increase and that public health and public health nurses will expand and adjust their services to meet them.

Needs for preventive services are met by many of the same methods already mentioned. Early diagnosis reveals one condition and treatment ameliorates that and prevents another. Immunization is classic. A field still not effectively exploited for its preventive values is nutrition. Weight reduction is emphasized, perhaps as much by the glamorizers as the physician, but protective foods are not. For example, less than one-fifth of the women in a study of diets in Iowa and South Dakota were using the

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Mental health principles have found their way into the popular press, including the comics, to some advantage. Our own application of principles remains amateurish. Programs to maintain the health of men and women in their later years are in prospect and promise delay in physical and mental deterioration. Control of environmental hazards to health is approaching a new boom.

People need health information which is practical and usable. We assume that most of this information should be directed toward healthful living with advice to seek medical assistance at threats of ill health. It would be wonderful if all health information had built into it criteria for judging its soundness, but that, I suppose, is a separate need which would only be met by more health information. The easy communication of information by radio, TV, and the printed page and the motives of advertisers make it essential to judge and select wisely. The articles and col-

umns on health subjects appearing in the better newspapers and magazines are steadily improving as competent writers who can interpret complex material in an interesting way find more and more to attract them to this field of writing.

Putting health information into practice often entails changes in behavior. Research on social change shows that it is extremely hard to change human behavior. Perhaps research will give clues to more effective ways of inducing change, self-motivated change. For example, just how would we go about changing behavior which one writer calls "addiction to success"—behavior we suspect is related to gastric ulcers and coronary thrombosis?

Nurses need information too. I listened to a group of nurse consultants sharing ideas in a staff meeting recently and heard several sentences beginning, "I find nurses looking for." Among the words completing the sentence were:

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1. Grayzel, H. G., Heimer, C. B., and Grayzel, R. W.: New York St. J. Med. 53:2233, 1953. 2. Heimer, C. B., Grayzel, H. G., and Kramer, B.: Archives of Pediatrics 68:382, 1951. 3. Behrman, H. T., Combes, F. C., Bobroff, A., and Leviticus, R.: Ind. Med. & Surgery 18:512, 1949. 4. Sobel, A. E.: Scientific Exhibit, A.M.A. Meet, 1955. 5. Marks, M. M.: Missouri Med. 52:187, 1955.



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to capitalize on their value for health education and preventing illness."

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"Good material on caring for the aged in their own homes with or without family."

"Something to show Indian families how to keep flies out of their houses and keep their drinking water safe."

As I listened I realized how closely information materials are related to group action. To help the Indian families of the Southwest to better health, we must try the whole range of approaches—clinic and hospital care, chemotherapy, personal contacts and home visits, group meetings, posters, pamphlets, slides, movies, and other audiovisual presentations—and not just once but over and over again.

Nurses can help meet timely needs for simple, authentic, persuasive information. More imagination and more flexibility in cooperating with writers and artists and health educators will increase the readability and magnetism of information materials both for people themselves and for the nurses who use them.

People need workable health information. Nurses discover these needs. They help fill these needs by talking (not too much talking), by leading people to sources of infor-

mation, by helping people judge information, by creating usable materials, by exemplifying health principles, themselves, by interpreting needs to others who can fill them effectively, by working to keep channels of communication smooth, by working to improve the journalism of health. They help not only by answering questions in simple, understandable language, but by anticipating questions and having the answers ready.

The needs of people require organized services. The American genius for organization works overtime in the field of health and gives us an elaborateness which itself needs organizing. *People want organized services, sensibly combined not fragmented; readily accessible.* The public health nurse sees the family whole and the community whole. To the family she is often the combiner of services from many sources, supplying the element that makes services consecutive. Her closeness, the intimacy of her contact, make her again the cohesive force. This experience on the family scale and on the community scale makes her a wise participant at the table where plans and policies are made.

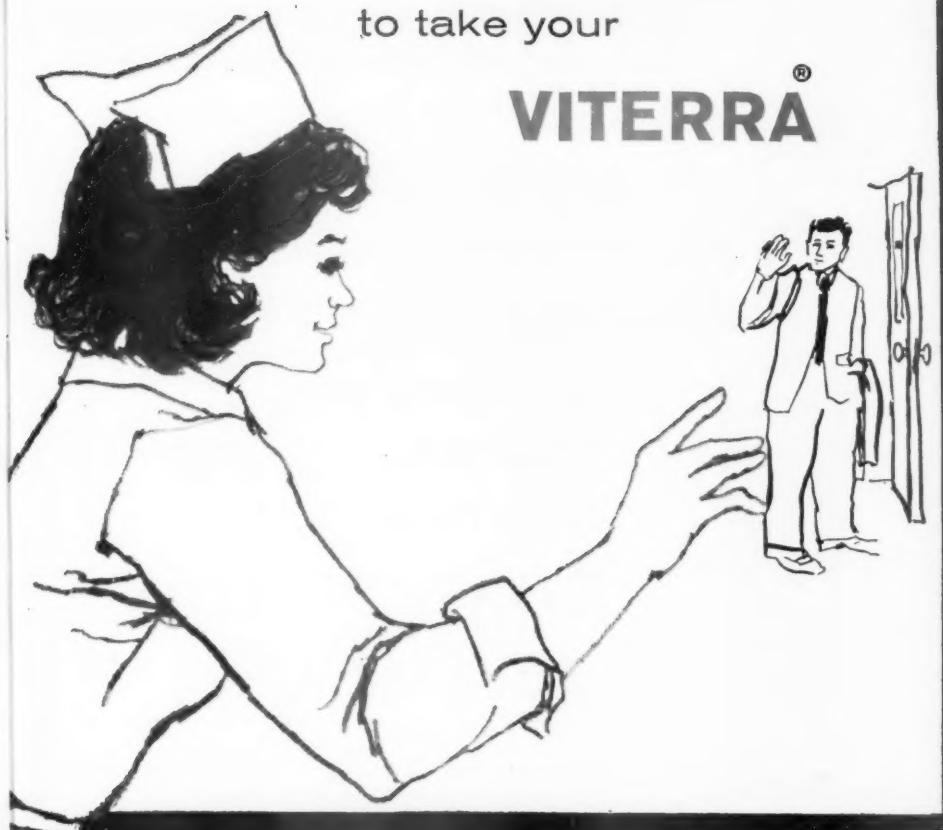
People need care when sick; they need preventive services; they need workable health information. The needs do not change. Perception of need change. Expectations of how and to what extent needs can be met also change. The public health nurse serves in meeting these three needs.

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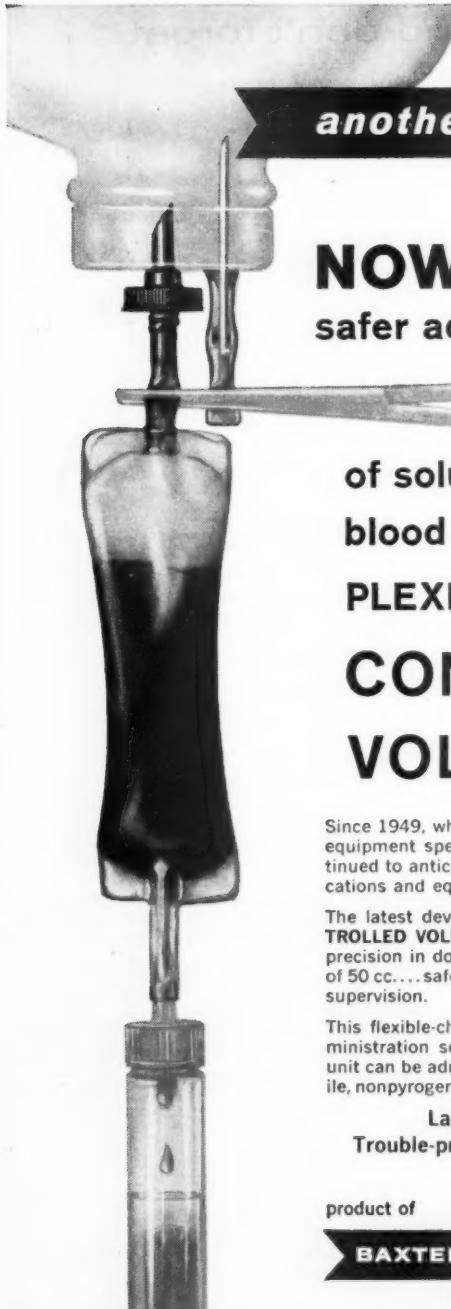


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ANESTHETIC

continued from page 70

compensatory heightening of irregular diaphragmatic (abdominal) contractions, reveals failing respiration. Dilation of pupil, dry lack-lustre eyeballs, and loss of light and corneal reflexes also warn of the need to stop the anesthetic.

As the drug leaves the nervous tissues and is eliminated by way of the lungs, the patient passes through the same stages, but in reverse order. While the "excitement" stage of recovery is less severe than that of induction, the patient must be protected from injury and from danger of aspirating

vomitus into the lungs. Preoperative administration of the tranquilizer-antihistamine drugs, chlorpromazine (Thorazine) and promethazine (Phenergan), is said to control nausea and vomiting. However, it is still necessary to watch for signs of swallowing and the return of cough reflexes.

While many substances can cause loss of consciousness and induce muscular relaxation, only a relatively few meet the criteria for clinically useful anesthesia. Ideally, such substances should induce anesthesia rapidly and be relatively pleasant to take. Most important is the need for a wide margin of safety between the dose required to produce muscular relaxation and the amount which dangerously de-

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presses respiration. Thus, while alcoholic beverages are among the most ancient anesthetics, ethyl alcohol is not used in modern clinical anesthesia. The prolonged excitement produced by alcohol and the danger of fatal coma make it unsafe for routine use.

Although no known anesthetic fulfills completely all requirements, much may be accomplished by administration of multiple agents in minimal amounts. The skilled anesthesiologist can capitalize on the advantages (and minimize the dangers and disadvantages) of each of the agents discussed briefly in the following paragraphs.

Ether is still the safest and most widely used all-purpose anesthetic. It is rarely given alone today, however, because of its relatively long and unpleasant induction and recovery periods. Often, basal anesthesia is first brought about by inhalation of nitrous oxide-oxygen mixtures, intravenous injection of barbiturates, or, occasionally, rectal instillation of tribromethanol solution (Avertin). The profuse flow of mucous secretions resulting from respiratory tract irritation by ether may be reduced by prior administration of atropine.

Chloroform, one of the earliest inhalation anesthetics, is now rarely employed in this country on account of its potential toxicity. Like other halogenated hydrocarbons, it can cause sudden cardiac arrest during induction, and late liver and kidney damage postoperatively.

Nitrous oxide is one of the least



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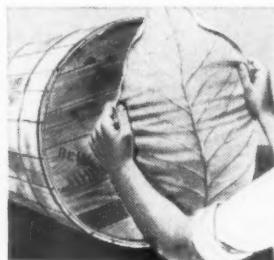
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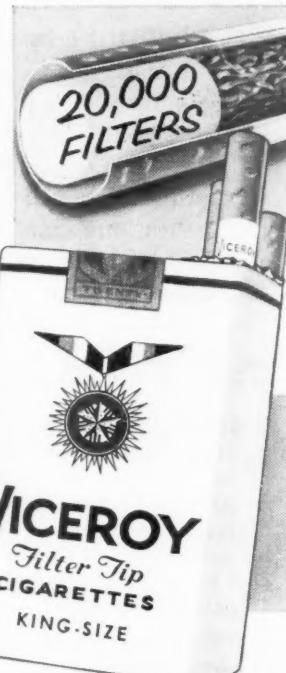
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toxic anesthetics. Unfortunately, this gas is too weak to produce adequate muscular relaxation unless used in concentrations so high that proper oxygenation is impossible. Thus, it is used mainly as an analgesic in dentistry, or combined with curare or thiopental as a supplement to more potent agents, such as ether.

Divinyl ether (*Vinethene*) is characterized by very high potency. While this results in quite rapid induction, its very speed may bring the patient down too deeply before the usual signs are recognized. Its use is limited to operations of relatively short duration (twenty to thirty minutes) or prior to anesthesia maintenance with ether; longer administration may cause liver damage, especially in aged and debilitated people.

Ethyl chloride shares many of the advantages, disadvantages, and indications of vinyl ether. Sprayed on the skin for local anesthesia, its rapid rate of evaporation freezes the tissues long enough for simple incisions of boils and abscesses.

Trichlorethylene (*Trilene*) has

limited value for general anesthesia because the danger of cardiac and hepatic toxicity when used in amounts adequate for deep depression. Recently, however, it has become popular for analgesia in obstetrics, minor surgery, and orthopedic manipulations. In obstetrics, the mother may administer the anesthetic herself by means of a special inhaler that automatically cuts off the flow of vapors when labor pains are relieved.

Cyclopropane comes close to the ideal in many respects. Induction and recovery are rapid and relatively pleasant; muscular relaxation is greater than with any other gaseous anesthetic; oxygenation is adequate and the safety margin wide. Occasionally, however, cyclopropane can cause serious cardiac arrhythmias. Special precautions are also required to prevent explosions of cyclopropane-oxygen mixtures. *Ethylene* has somewhat similar properties—rapid, safe induction and high explosiveness.

Just how the different kinds of depressant drugs act on nervous tissues has been the subject of

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much investigation and many theories. Some scientists think that anesthetics interfere with the brain's ability to utilize oxygen; others claim that they prevent cells from responding to stimuli by reducing the permeability of the cell membrane. Another theory relates the potency of anesthetics to their solubility in nerve tissue lipoids (fat-like substances). None of these theories offers a really satisfactory explanation of how anesthetics act; yet gaps in our understanding have not prevented anesthesiology from making remarkable advances in recent years.

New drugs and apparatus now make it possible for the anesthetist to prepare the patient for hitherto impossible surgery. For example, nearly bloodless operations on brain, lung, and heart can now be carried out on "poor risk" patients through the skillful use of ganglionic blocking agents, muscle relaxants, and new depressant drugs as adjuncts to anesthesia.

The anesthetist can now control blood pressure, body temperature, and cardiac action with exquisite precision by means of drug-induced hypotension and hypothermia (artificial hibernation) combined with use of positive pressure respirators, "artificial hearts," and electronic devices for observing heart action and blood oxygen content.

Research now in progress on anesthetic drugs and the way they act on brain cells will undoubtedly lead to still further control over pain, both physical and mental. »

R.N.—a journal for nurses

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Nutrition and medical authorities seem to be in reasonable agreement that reduction in the fat intake of the diet, provided the diet is in proper balance, increases the chances for maintaining health and enjoying a longer, healthful life.

A food serving consisting of 1 ounce of ready-to-eat or hot cereal, 4 ounces of whole milk, and 1 teaspoon of sugar has a well-merited

place among those considered for reducing the fat intake in the diet as shown below. *Not only is this portion low in fat and low in cholesterol but its nutritional contribution of essential nutrients and calories is in proper balance.* Thus the cereal and milk serving merits inclusion in dietary regimens planned for the purpose of reducing the fat intake in the daily diet.

Nutritive Composition of Average Cereal Serving

	Cereal, 1 oz. Whole Milk, 4 oz. Sugar, 1 teaspoon	Cereal** 1 oz.	Whole Milk 4 oz.	Sugar 1 teaspoon
Calories	203	104	83	16
Protein	7.3 gm.	3.1 gm.	4.2 gm.	
Fat	5.3 gm.	0.6 gm.	4.7 gm.*	
Carbohydrate	32.2 gm.	22 gm.	6.0 gm.	4.2 gm.
Calcium	0.169 gm.	0.025 gm.	0.144 gm.	
Iron	1.5 mg.	1.4 mg.	0.1 mg.	
Vitamin A	195 I. U.	—	195 I. U.	
Thiamine	0.16 mg.	0.12 mg.	0.04 mg.	
Riboflavin	0.25 mg.	0.04 mg.	0.21 mg.	
Niacin	1.4 mg.	1.3 mg.	0.1 mg.	
Ascorbic Acid	1.5 mg.	—	1.5 mg.	
Cholesterol	16.4 mg.	—	16.4 mg.*	

* Nonfat (skim) milk, 4 oz., reduces the Fat value to 0.1 gm. and the Cholesterol value to 0.35 mg.

**Based on composite average of breakfast cereals on dry weight basis.

Bowers, A. deP., and Church, C. F.: *Food Values of Portions Commonly Used*. 8th ed. Philadelphia: A. deP. Bowers, 1956.
Cereal Institute, Inc.: *The Nutritional Contribution of Breakfast Cereals*. Chicago: Cereal Institute, Inc., 1956.

Hayes, O. B., and Ross, G. K.: *Supplementary Food Composition Table*. J. Am. Dietet. A. 33:26, 1957.

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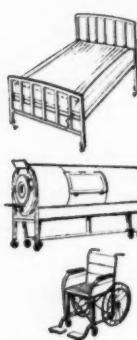
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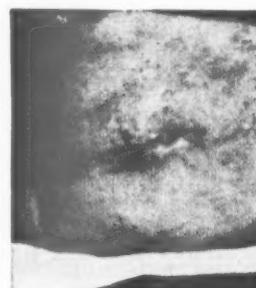
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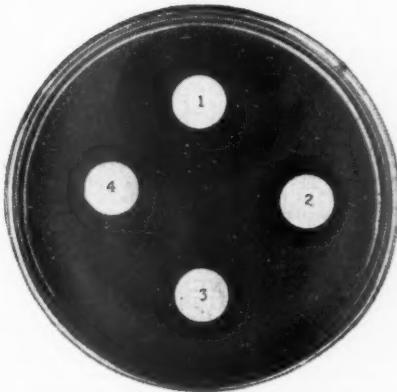
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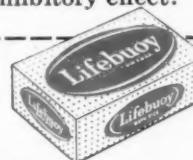
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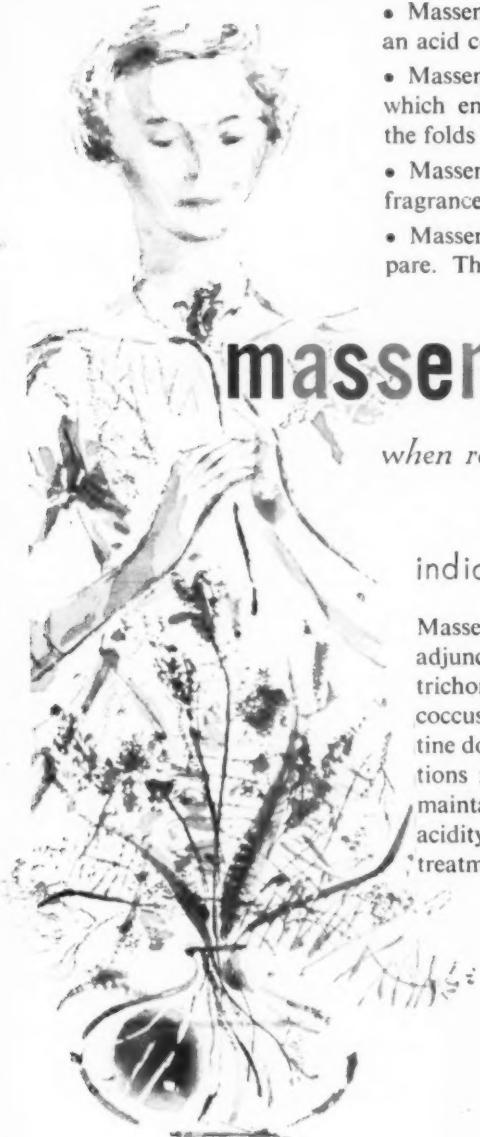
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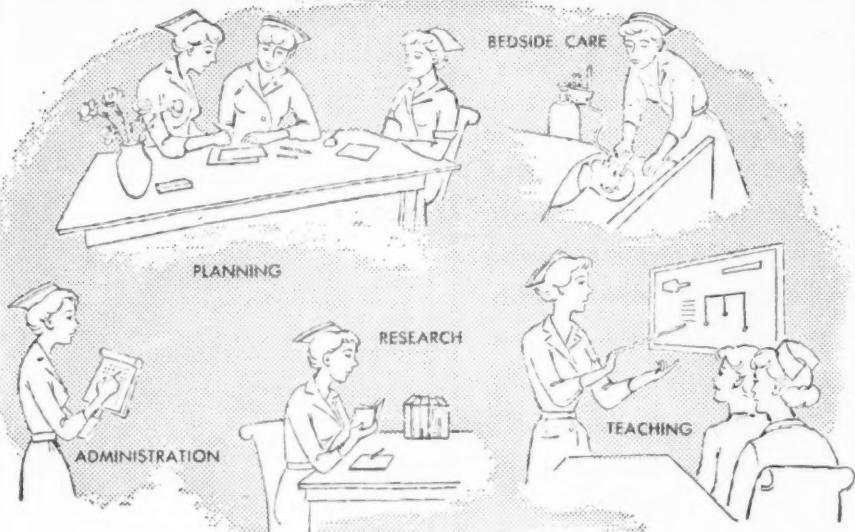
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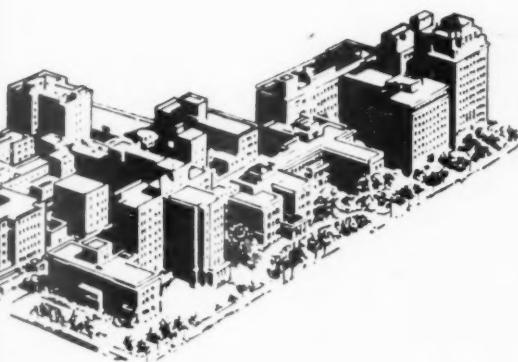
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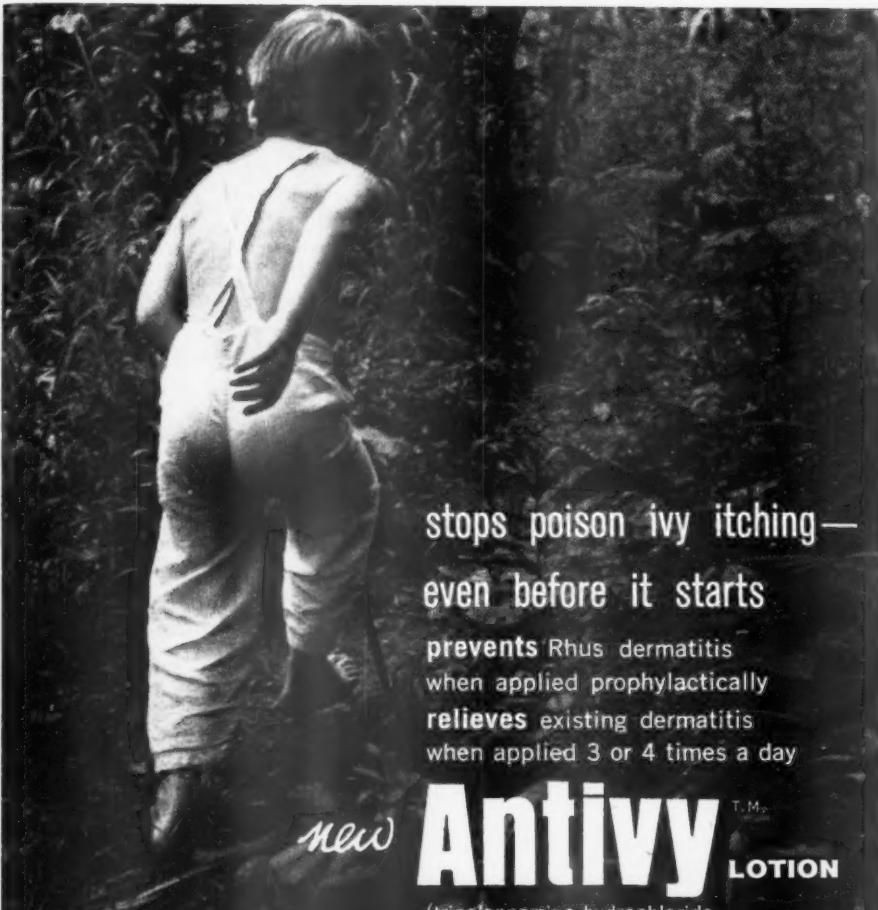
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OPERATING ROOM SUPERVISOR: 118 bed gen hosp in beautiful residential suburb along North Shore of Chicago. Modern ranch style nurses home with attractively furnished private bedrooms. 40 hr wk. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Contact Director of Nursing Services, Highland Park Hospital Foundation, Highland Park, Ill.

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R.N. SUPERVISORS: New 32 bed general hospital, starting salary \$285 for P.M. and night duty, raise in salary after 6 mos, meals furnished, 2 wks vacation and sick lv. For further information write Memorial Hospital, Pecos, Tex.

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REGISTERED NURSES: Opportunity for varied experience in progressive teaching institution. Liberal personnel policies and opportunities for advancement. Salary \$265-\$315 with additional differential for eve and night duty. Operating room and previous experience. In-service education program. Apply Director of Nursing, Hahnemann Medical College & Hospital, 230 N Broad St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.

REGISTERED NURSES: Needed for general duty in new 24 bed gen hosp, much experience offered for new graduate. Climate very healthful. In driving distance of many scenic points in Northern Ariz. Starting salary \$260 with differential on 3-11 and 11-7 shifts, monthly. For further information contact Naomi Lally, R.N., Winslow Memorial Hospital, Winslow, Ariz.

REGISTERED NURSES: Staff positions on all services. 150 bed approved general hospital, 100 mi from San Francisco. Starting salary \$305 per mo. 40 hr wk, pd vacation, sick leave, holidays, Social Security and Blue Cross. Apply Director of Nursing Service, Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, 450 E. Romie Lane, Salinas, Calif.

REGISTERED NURSES: Positions available at 398 bed JCAH non-sectarian research and teaching hosp, with NLN fully accredited school of nursing. Liberal personnel policies include tuition aid for study at Western Reserve University. Housing available at reason-

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REGISTERED NURSES: For 200 bed tuberculosis sanatorium. Starting salary \$325 per mo. Maintenance available at minimum rate.

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REGISTERED NURSES: For general duty, Florida East Coast 50 bed fully approved gen hosp. Liberal personnel policies. Starting salary \$240 per mo, \$10 differential for 3-11, 11-7 shifts plus one on-duty meal. Apply Director of Nurses, Fort Pierce Memorial Hospital, Fort Pierce, Fla.

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40 hr wk, 30 days annual leave, 15 days sick leave and 8 holidays. Salaries, Junior Grade \$4025, Associate Grade \$4730 with yearly increases. Non-housekeeping quarters available.

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REGISTERED NURSES: Male and female. Starting salary \$300 up plus \$20 pm shifts, 40 hr wk. Social Security, pd vacation, 10 days sick leave, hosp group insurance. Apply Mr. Glenn A. Dickau, R.N., Administrator, Corning Memorial Hospital, Corning, Calif.

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Fully accredited school of nursing, hospital affiliated with medical school. Teaching and research. For further information write Director of Nursing, Jefferson Davis Hospital, Houston, Tex.

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\$20 mo. See June '56 issue Modern Hospital for information about hospital. Write Director of Nursing Service, Memorial Hospital, Casper, Wyo.

STAFF NURSES: 225 bed Southern California hospital on ocean front. Attractive personnel policies. Salary for California registered nurses starts at \$300. Increases on merit. Apply to Director of Nursing, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, Calif.

STAFF NURSES: Needed in new well equipped 100 bed hospital soon expanding to 200 beds in most desirable coastal city in Southern California, 40 mi from Los Angeles, 2 hrs from mountains. Write to Director of Nurses, Hoag Memorial Hospital-Presbyterian, 301 Newport Blvd., Newport Beach, Calif.

STAFF NURSES: 250 bed non-sectarian hospital located on beautiful Allison Island, Miami Beach, Fla. Nearby college offers opportunity for advanced study. Accommodations for living in are available. Apply Director of Nursing Service, St. Francis Hospital, Miami Beach, Fla.

STAFF NURSES: For operating room, obstetrics, medical and surgical nursing. Apply Director of Nurses, St. Mary's Hospital, West Palm Beach, Fla.

STAFF NURSES: Modern air-conditioned 250 bed general hospital, liberal policies, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Social Security. 5 day 40 hr wk, annual vacation, sick leave. Apply to Director of Nurses, St. Luke's Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla.

STAFF NURSES: For positions in all clinical fields, 320 bed teaching hospital located on the UCLA campus. Salary \$295 per mo, first increase after 6 mos of employment. Pay differentials for eve and night duty and for psychiatric and operating room. 40 hr wk, 3 wks vacation, sick leave benefits. California registration required. Write or apply Employment Office, University of California Medical Center, Los Angeles 24, Calif.

STAFF NURSES: General duty in operating rooms and medical-surgical units. 165 bed general hospital. College town in central Pennsylvania. Opportunity for part-time study. In-service program. Liberal personnel policies. Salary depends on ability and qualifications. Write Director of Nursing, Carlisle Hospital, Carlisle, Pa.

STAFF NURSES: Base salary \$335 mo. Higher salaries based upon experience and education. 40 hr work wk, 30 days vacation, 15 days sick leave, 8 holidays, uniform allowance. Write Chief, Nursing Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, Ann Arbor, Mich.

STAFF NURSES: For 45 bed general hospital, completely remodeled and new equipment. 44 hr week. Starting salary \$300 up. Good working conditions. Liberal personnel policy. Apply Administrator, Coon Memorial Hospital, Dalhart, Tex.

STAFF NURSES: Positions available now. Salary range \$304-\$365. TB \$15 extra. Shift differential of \$10, rooms available in nurses home for \$15 per mo. Retirement plan, hospital insurance plan at low cost. California registration required. 400 bed county general hosp, 2 hr drive to either mountain resort areas or San Francisco. Apply to Director of Nurses, Stanislaus County Hospital, 830 Scenic Drive, Modesto, Calif.

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manage 50 bed priv. mental san., salary commensurate ability, MW. RN-4-9 Burneice Larson, Medical Bureau, 900 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

TWO TRAINED NURSE ANESTHETISTS: To work for a group of Anesthesiologists in Northern Kentucky. Write or call for complete detailed printed information. Salary is more than \$75 above national average. Anesthesia Associates, 301 East 3rd St., Newport, Ky. AX 1-6545

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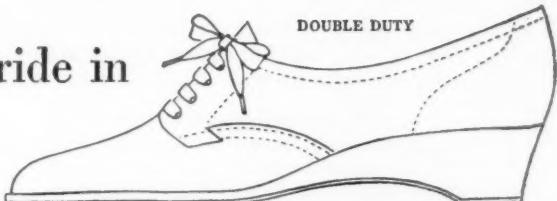


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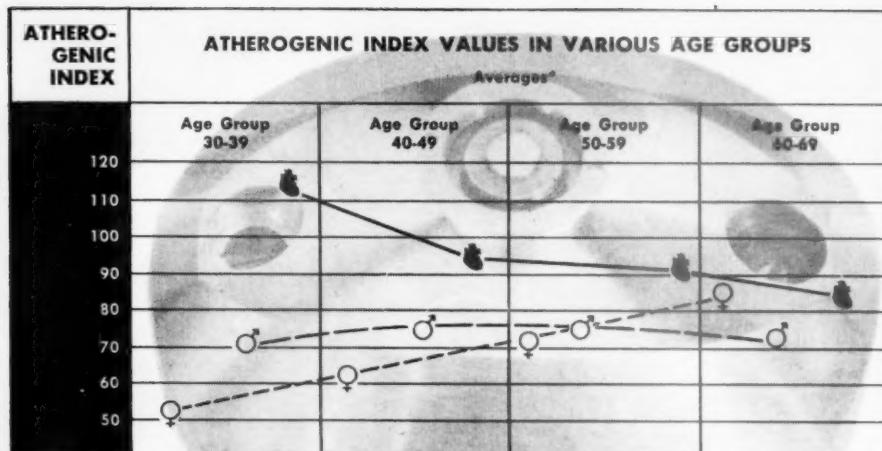
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*Averages derived from the following number of individuals in each group.

♀ Normal females:	188	140	80	9
♂ Normal males:	284	473	267	74
♂ Males with coronary heart disease:	9	91	148	61

Adapted from Gofman, J. W., and others: Mod. Med. 21:119 (June 15) 1953.



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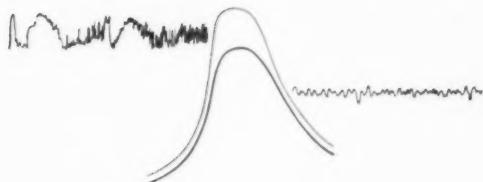
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1. Doyle, P. J., and Livingston, S.: J. Pediat. 43:413 (Oct.) 1953.
2. Livingston, S., and Petersen, D.: To be published.
3. Pence, L. M.: Texas State J. Med. 50:290 (May) 1954.

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